

THE SECRETS OF NATIONS

THE RISKS WHICH SPIES RUN TO SECURE THEM.

Remarkable How Information About Forts and Guns Leaks Out.

Two years ago a case of espionage came to light in Germany which revealed that such extensive and valuable information had been given to France as necessitated the replacing of the whole system of Western fortresses, and also sweeping changes in field artillery.

The spy was one Herr Schiware, an ex-journalist, who had become a brewery manager. His method was to entertain non-coms. and soldiers to champagne suppers, and by this means he was able to pump them of the facts he required. That his game was a paying one may be gathered from the fact that he was shown to have received as much as \$1,000 for individual items of information. He had carried on his operations for three years before being found out; but then he was condemned to twelve years' hard labor.

Four years' penal servitude was the sentence meted out only last year to a charming governess, tried in Berlin, and said to have been in the employ of two great Powers.

According to the evidence at the trial, Fraulein Petersen, from Hamburg, obtained a post as governess in the home of a naval officer's widow. This position enabled her to get acquainted with a number of young naval officers, whom she attracted by her

CHARMING PERSONALITY to such a degree that she was able to get from them charts, plans, and secrets that it was treason to disclose.

At least one payment to this clever woman was traced to Brussels, whence she received \$125 every month, said to be from an agent of France.

It is remarkable to what limits of audacity the spy will go in order to obtain what he knows his employers will pay well for. Some three years ago a well-dressed man of gentlemanly appearance arrived at the entrance to the Breakwater Fort at Portland, England, and presented to the sentinel a card, purporting to come from the admiral then in command. He was shown all over the fort, and not until the card he had presented was returned in due course to the commanding officer was it discovered to be a forgery.

Again, in 1908, sixteen submarines, accompanied by the depot ship Thames and a torpedo destroyer, while engaged in carrying out manoeuvres in the North Sea found themselves always within range of a steam trawler. When twenty-six hours had passed, a commanding officer came to the conclusion that the trawler must be fishing in an unusual sense. He steamed up to her, when what was his amazement to find on the bridge with the British captain two Germans furnished with powerful marine glasses.

The names of the vessel and her captain were taken, and she was warned off.

DESIGNS ON "G.I.B."

The instance of the publication of an interior photograph of the first Dreadnought in a German paper shows how intimate the intelligence secured by spies frequently is. Two years ago, within a short period, negotiations were discovered to be actually in progress for the sale of secrets of our Gibraltar defences, and documents describing our submarine defences were stolen or lost.

On more than one occasion secrets have got out through foreign embassies in one country and another. An officer in the Kaiser's army confessed to the writer that his uncle, while attached to the German Embassy in Paris, succeeded in smuggling a new French rifle out of the country, a rifle with certain parts his Government very much wanted to find out all about. The rifle was obtained by bribery, taken to pieces, and packed in his bag. His official card secured the courtesy of an unchallenged passage of the Customs, and he took advantage of that courtesy to provide his employers with his host's secrets.

SUCCESSFUL HOG RAISING.

Select sows from families that lead you to expect good litters of vigorous, growthy pigs. Keep proven sows as long as they do well or as long as you can control them. Feed enough to give the sows a chance, remembering that for developing themselves and their pigs a large percentage of protein is needed. Keep their bowels in order, especially at farrowing time, (taking care not to feed a loosening enough diet to scour the pigs. Remember, that the development of the mammary glands depends largely on the number of pigs in first litter, and, last but not least, make the sow take care of the pigs by compelling her to stay with them a considerable part of each day.

HEALTH

PNEUMONIA.

Pneumonia is not dreaded merely for its power to seize and kill quickly, but also for its apparent power to select the most unlikely victims. Most persons have lived through the shock of hearing that some friend had suddenly died of pneumonia—a friend from whom they had parted but a few days or even hours before, leaving him at what seemed the highest notch of physical well-being, and perhaps protesting that he did not know what illness meant.

This disease is most dangerous to the apparently strong, robust people of heavy weight and hearty appetite, although it may attack any one, for its germs are omnipresent.

The strong and full-blooded individual who is at the same time something overweight is especially in danger of pneumonia, and should take particular care to avoid it. If his diet is too heavy—and that may safely be assumed—it should be ruthlessly cut down, especially as to meat and the elimination of alcohol.

The weighing scale is a good friend to such a person, and should be consulted regularly. The scale does not argue about that extra pound or two, it proves it; and after a weight in accordance with age and height has been determined, it can be maintained, in most cases, by the exercise of a little self-control.

There are hosts of people who indolently permit themselves to get heavy, and even fat, in the winter months. They are the people who should be constantly reminded—"The pneumonia germ'll git yer, if yer don't watch out!"

The condition of the man must be recognized as more important than the presence of the germ, as proved by the fact that there is less mortality among the thin and apparently delicate than among the stout and full-blooded.

Some of the phrases used by the laity on this subject have, after all, more sense than nonsense in them. It is said that some one is "threatened with pneumonia," or that a "bad cold ran into pneumonia," and in a sense it is true, for every one is "threatened" with pneumonia; that is to say, the germ is always present, and ready and willing to begin its work if one only gives it a chance.

The most successful way to give it a chance is to neglect a bad cold, and thus break down the natural defenses of the system. If every bad cold were met with starvation, physic and fresh air it would depart in disgust, and the lurking pneumonia with it, for the large burglar cannot get in through a hole which has refused to admit the smaller one.—*Youth's Companion.*

REVIVAL.

Hab 3: 2.

"Review Thy work, O Lord;" All hearts with fervor fill; Lead men to hearken to Thy word And seek to do Thy will.

O Lord, Thy work revive; This is our earnest plea; So may Thy mighty spirit strive That souls may turn to Thee.

O Lord, revive Thy work; And by Thy power divine Cast out the hidden things that lurk In hearts that should be Thine.

Revive Thy work again; We look to Thee, O Lord; May He who was for sinners slain Be everywhere adored.

Revive Thy work, we pray; Send blessing from above; May willing ones their Lord obey And grow in grace and love.

O Lord, Thy work revive, While here our songs we raise; For all that we from Thee desire We render fervent praise.

T. WATSON.

Iona Station, Ont., 1911.

FASHION NOTES.

Bead fringes are a fad of the moment. Changeable cheviot is one of the new fabrics.

Black Russia leather pumps have plain steel buckles.

There are some wonderfully pretty hair nets worn, of gold and silver, and old silver is fashionable.

One of the newest sleeves is about three-quarter length and is as wide at the bottom as at the plain top.

Dressy coat sleeves end anywhere between the elbow and the wrist, and ample width is a feature of all.

Fancy effects both in coats and skirts are plainly discernible among the important trends.

It often happens that the misfortunes of a wise man resemble that of any other man; but his good fortune never is anything like the good fortune of a fool.

HOUSE OF PRIMITIVE MAN

BOUGHT WARMTH AND REFUGE IN PIT DWELLINGS.

How the Round Building of Olden Times Became Squares and Oblongs.

The earliest human dwellings were shelter places made by nature, as in caves, but when the progress of man had reached its Neolithic period a form of human architecture was developed and it had much in common with the building methods of burrowing animals.

That is to say, primitive man went to the earth like a hunted fox seeking warmth and refuge in pit dwellings. Why he went underground is a mystery which I venture to explain partly by that human instinct which now reconciles us to coal pits and tube railways, says M. W. Shaw in the *Fortnightly Review*, and partly also by the disappearance of many huge animals which in earlier prehistoric times would have broken through the roof of a pit dwelling.

Each pit was round in shape; just like the entrance to a burrow; it went downward for seven feet and sometimes for ten; and over the mouth was a firm cover of interlaced branches plastered with clay and mud. From the bottom a tunnel ran upward to the surface, and along it women and men crawled to their pen pit home.

UNDERGROUND HOUSES. akin to the Neolithic were built in Germany during the time of Tacitus, the first century of the Christian era, for the Roman historian says that remote German tribes made artificial caves in the earth covered with vast heaps of dung, so as to form in winter a shelter from cold and a storehouse also for harvests.

Through all this unimaginative period of time, from Neolithic days to our own, that first idea of men—his instinctive liking for rounded shapes—has gone on progressing, so that we find it in prehistoric funeral mounds, in the beehive houses in Ireland, in Roman temples dedicated to Vesta, in the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral, and in the pleasant rooms built only the other day, as in France.

Yet somehow after being the principal form in architecture for a time unimaginably long, the round became a very subordinate thing, yielding empire and precedence to a shape never to be found in nature's own work—i.e., the square, the right angle. Squares and oblongs denote repose and weight, while circles and rounded forms are identified with everything in the universe that suggests life, mystery, intelligence, light and heat, movement and speed, and ILLIMITABLE SPACE.

So long as the diameter of a round house did not exceed from eighteen to twenty feet, traditional methods would suffice, probably their thin walls of wattled poles plastered with clay being strong enough perhaps to bear up the rafters of a good roof—that is to say, a thatched roof, weather-tight and wind resisting. But circular houses of that size were for families only, there was no room in them for a chief with servants and retainers, and so we may suppose that when the headman of a tribe wanted a much bigger round house for his court, builders were troubled, since a much larger circle led to a roofed over with heavier rafters.

This put on the simple wattled walls a stronger thrust and a greater burden; there was also a greater surface for the wind to beat against and these new factors upset the old traditional routine of unskilled workmen. It must have taken many centuries for the Saxons to evolve their system of living with retainers in great oblong halls. If the architectural problems were hard nuts to crack during the first periods of Gothic vaults, they must have been a thousandfold more difficult in primitive time, and with primitive methods of construction, and hence the importance of the diameter in building circular huts and halls.

A CELEBRITY.

Mr. Jones was an excellent man, prosperous in his business and modest in his ways, but not distinguished for anything in particular. His wife, however, Mrs. Smith Jones, was a woman of rare accomplishments. She was an artist of more than ordinary ability, a brilliant pianist, and possessed a voice of remarkable sweetness and power.

At a large party one evening, at which she and her husband were present, her singing captivated a stranger who was one of the guests, and he asked to be introduced to her. His request was granted. After a few minutes' conversation the hostess came and took him away.

"You mustn't monopolize her, Mr. Simmons," she said. "I want you to meet Mr. Jones."

"Who is Mr. Jones?" "He is her husband." "What is he noted for?" "Noted for!" echoed the hostess. "Why, for—for his wife."

SHOWING HIS PACES.

This Old Lady Was Particular About Her Footmen.

In that delightful record of social customs in the eighteenth century, "The Merry Past," Mr. Ralph H. Neville makes a good jest of the extreme formality of the times. Lord Lyttleton was once much piqued by the remarks of a certain old lady, well known for her strong predilection for beauty and athletic form in her footmen, and in consequence fixed upon the following method of making her ridiculous.

A friend of his had an Irish servant of remarkably fine presence, with a great fund of native humor. This man Lord Lyttleton borrowed, and instructed to apply to the old lady, who, as was well known, had advertised for a footman. Her ladyship either was, or affected to be, troubled by the most delicate and irritable nerves, which could not endure the slightest disturbance or noise.

The new servant, handsomely dressed and well powdered, presented himself at the lady's door, and his errand being announced, he was soon ushered into her saloon.

My lady was alone, and after asking the young man a variety of questions the answers to which seemed to be satisfactory, she told him she liked his appearance much as he stood, but she wished to see him walk, to know whether he did that gracefully, a main point with her.

The man walked up and down the room, the old lady's eyes following him closely, and in evident admiration of his six feet of height and his fine figure.

He was next ordered to turn this way, then that way, then to make his bow, then to carry a fan and book; last of all, to walk the length of the room again.

Having walked the last time the man made a profound bow, and said, "Your ladyship has examined some but not all of my accomplishments, which are all equally excellent. You have seen me walk, now you shall see me trot."

With that he trotted up and down the room, with the utmost vigor, until the glasses, chairs and everything else danced.

Then stopping a moment, the rascal said, "Now, my lady, you have seen me trot, I'll next show you how I can gallop."

This he also performed with his utmost energy, and running downstairs, bolted out of the hall door.

SENTENCE SERMONS.

There is no inevitable tragedy. The sole way to thwart destiny is to do just the contrary to the evil it would have us do.

We over-emphasize death. If thirty years of felicity end in an accidental death, all those thirty years seem to us lost in the one sombre hour.

He rejoiced in the pleasing name of Wood, and he prided himself on his jokes and smart repartees. One day he met a friend whose name was Stone, and naturally a name like that was too good a chance to miss.

"Good morning, Mr. Stone," he said, pleasantly; "and how is Mrs. Stone and all the little pebbles?" "Quite well, thank you, Mr. Wood; and how is Mrs. Wood and all the little splinters?"

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A. RAMSAY & SON CO., THE PAINT MAKERS, Montreal, 1912.

THE FARM

Useful Hints for the Tiller of the Soil

THE DESTRUCTION OF HUMUS.

There is so little attention paid to the humus of the soil that it is a wonder that there is any left in the ground. Many people will spend time and money on fertilizers, both green and chemical, when if they had kept all the humus intact, they would not have been out for the extra nor have spent as much time and energy.

Humus is the decayed and decaying vegetation—the well rotted particles beneath the sod. Because it is dead is no sign that it has no value in the therapeutics of plant life. It has a most distinct value. Without it there is very little luxuriance and hardly any fruit. It is not in itself a food, but it opens the way for every particle and kind of possible food to reach the young and growing life.

The moisture that flows along the lines of its direction, the chemicals that it absorbs and sustains, the life, the light, the air that makes it possible for the possession of the plant life, are wonderful and necessary beyond words for expression. Yet so many people will not take any of these great fundamentals into consideration and go on ruthlessly destroying it.

Humus is destroyed, generally, three ways. First by overcultivation, by keeping down all growth between trees altogether and never allowing it to get large enough to be of value as humus. Second, it is done by dry ploughing, turning up great quantities of sod and leaving these clods to dry out in the hot sun during summer or hot fall weather. Nothing will so certainly kill a field as this, yet many supposedly good farmers do this. The third way is by burning over a field of heavy grasses, heating the sod three or more inches deep, and thus drying out the elasticity of both soil and humus, and preventing the seed or vegetation planted from getting a good hold in the ground. With no chance for a living it cannot grow. Take care of the humus and it will take care of you.

ORCHARD SUGGESTIONS.

Field mice been at the young trees! If the bark is gnawed to the wood the trees may be saved by bridge grafting.

If the rabbits have gnawed only the outer bark, wrap the wound with cloth.

A tree can be bridge grafted in less than half an hour and it is better to take this time to do it than to let a valuable tree die.

An hour's work with a sharp wire at the foot of your peach trees killing borers may mean an extra bushel of fine peaches.

If the orchard has gone to weeds plow carefully just deep enough to miss the roots, cultivate as you would for the garden and next fall sow clover, cow peas or some other nitrogen-bearing plant and plow the next spring.

There is just as much sense in planting an orchard and then allowing it to shift for itself as there is in planting a corn field and allowing it to run to weeds.

Keep the fence around the orchard as free from weeds, grass and trash as you would your choicest garden plants. Weeds along the fence are fine harbors for insects.

The best place in the world for the poultry yard is the orchard—any kind of an orchard where insects abound.

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Now just as soon as you finish that new silo, barn, feeding floor or dairy, that you've been thinking of building, why not photograph it and send the picture to us? The photograph doesn't necessarily have to be taken by a professional or an expert. In fact, your son's or your daughter's camera will do nicely. Or, failing this, you might use the kodak of your neighbor's son nearby. In any event, don't let the idea of having a photograph made deter you from entering the competition. Particularly as we have requested your local dealer to help in cases where this is not convenient for the farmer to procure a camera in the

neighborhood. By this means you are placed on an equal footing with every other contestant. Get the circular, which gives you full particulars of the conditions and of the other three prizes. Every dealer who sells "CANADA" Cement will have on hand a supply of these circulars—and he'll give you one if you just ask for it. Or if you prefer, you can use the attached coupon—or a postcard will do—send it to us and you'll receive the complete details of the contest by return mail.

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