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IN THEIR LAST LONG SLEEP

Beautiful Spot in Which Have Been Laid American Soldiers Who Died in Liberty's Cause.

On the wooded slope of a steep hill that rises high over a great bend in the River Seine lies a little plot of earth that is as much America as is the national cemetery at Arlington or the hallowed ground of Gettysburg. It is a quiet and peaceful spot, for although Paris is near—the slender pinnacle of the Eiffel tower is in plain view over the trees—the city is separated from the American cemetery at Surmesnes by the green expanse of the Bois de Boulogne. The heart of the city that is the heart of the world is not five miles away; you would think it at least fifty. It is a spot far removed from war, and yet there are enough of the accoutrements of war about it to remind the visitor that the 700 graves here are the graves of soldiers—mostly of soldiers who died of their wounds on the journey in from the front or at one of the hospitals in or near the capital. Further up the slope from the ramparts of the fort of Mount Valerien, one in the chain of defenses that surround Paris. During hostilities planes flew from field to field, the drone of their motors never so clear as in this quiet countryside. And more warlike still, an occasional cannon shot echoed from a testing ground in the neighborhood. The little cemetery itself, with its well-aligned rows of white wooden crosses, will some day be as green and fair a God's acre as any in France. It is becoming so as fast as the loving hands of the living can convert it into one. Even in these fresh fall days, the graves are all ablom, and hardy shrubs add a touch of somber beauty to the little corners and round points.—Stars and Stripes, Paris.

WAR DEMAND FOR PLATINUM

Is Essential in Production of Sulphuric Acid, Indispensable in Manufacture of Explosives.

Two universally known products—one a rare metal, the other a common acid—have lately assumed importance that is mystifying to the laity. Platinum has become virtually the king of metals, and sulphuric acid the king of chemicals. The reasons for this are most simple. Platinum is obtained chiefly from the Ural mountains. Owing to chaotic conditions in Russia, little of it is being mined. It is absolutely essential in the manufacture of sulphuric acid. Without a small amount of it being present, oxygen, water and sulphur dioxide will not unite chemically. Sulphuric acid, on the other hand, was probably the most indispensable product used in the prosecution of the war. Its tremendous affinity for water made it vitally important in the manufacture of high explosives. For instance, one obtains a fairly harmless liquid by mixing glycerin and nitric acid. If sulphuric acid is added, it combines the two chemically by taking an atom of hydrogen and one of oxygen from the nitric acid, an atom of hydrogen from the glycerin, forming water, and taking it into itself. One then has nitroglycerin. In a similar manner sulphuric acid is needed for the manufacture of gun cotton and TNT. Thus we had the peculiar cycle of circumstances that made it unpatriotic for an American to have in his possession more than an ounce of platinum in the form of jewelry. Incidentally, however, there is said to be good reason for the belief that a very large proportion of the so-called platinum in modern jewelry is composed wholly or at least in part of cheaper metals.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Substitute for Tea.

It is said that there are now on the market as a substitute for tea the leaves of a plant which Niebuhr described as long ago as 1775. The plant is the Catha edulis, or Arabian tea, which is cultivated or grown wild on the East African coast from Abyssinia to Natal, in the Nile valley, and in Arabia. The leaves are called by the natives "kat," and when boiled give off a liquor which is said to be a powerful stimulant. The natives drink this tea before starting on long marches or other strenuous labors. The tea is said to have a pleasant aroma and to be useful against neuralgia, while in many regions the plant is considered to be a protection against plague.

All He Had Left.

The conjuror was giving a sleight of hand performance. One of his feats was to make a marked dollar bill disappear in the sight of the crowd, which he did successfully.

"That marked dollar bill will be found in the vest pocket of that gentleman," said the conjuror, pointing with his magic wand at Sam Lawsing.

All eyes were riveted on Sam, who advanced to the front, took some money from his vest pocket and said:

"Boss, here's your change. Ah've had two beers and a cigar out of that dollar you told me to keep in my pocket till you called for it."

Peace Ambassadors.

General Mangin possesses a vein of sardonic humor. When, in the autumn of 1918, he had helped to undo in a few days the work for which the crown prince during eight months had sacrificed the flower of the kaiser's army, at Verdun, Germany launched a peace offensive. Reviewing his men one day, Mangin eyed them over and remarked with a grim smile. "Ah, you're the sort of peace ambassadors the republic wants."

REACH LIMIT IN ABSORPTION

Small Things Like the Turmoil of a Great War Cannot Disturb Chess Devotees.

To its devotees chess is the most absorbing of all mental activities, the game that above all others brings complete forgetfulness of the world to those who play and those who watch the moves, observes a writer in the New York Herald.

A striking example of this self-absorption has been shown recently in the rooms of a local chess club when distinguished experts struggled for supremacy in the mimic field headless of the stupendous four-year struggle that was fast drawing to a close on Europe's shell-torn, blood-soaked board. What was the reckless slaughter of thousands of German soldiers in comparison with the sacrifice of a single ivory pawn standing guard before its queen? Which one of those who moved the pieces or of the greater number who watched them with furrowed brows and fast-beating hearts thought of the kaiser's peace offer while the queen's gambit was passing before their eyes? The pope may lift his voice in words of solemn counsel, but they heed him not. The only ecclesiastical power that they recognize is that of the mitred bishop sweeping into the heart of the enemy's country and smiting the rock as it stands.

To read the printed accounts of this tournament is to recall the old Puck picture of two chess players carried in their chairs from a burning building with the board between them. Nor do we wonder at the fact that it was only while absorbed in his daily game that the exiled Napoleon could forget Sir Hudson Lowe.

EPIGRAPHS PROVE A PUZZLE

Explanation of Hieroglyphics Admittedly Very Old Will Surely Be of the Greatest Interest.

Amateur archeologists of California are endeavoring to interest professional scientists of the East in the epigraphs, which abound on the rocks of Round Valley, not far from the city of Bishop, and which are believed to be as old, if not older, than the hieroglyphics of earliest Egypt, to which they bear a strange resemblance.

It is believed by many that the strange markings constituted the names by which ancient tribes marked the source of water supply for the benefit of those of their number who lived roving lives.

These hieroglyphics have never been deciphered, although they are matters of record in the leading museums of the country, it is said. The Indian tribes now living in the vicinity declare they are the work of the Indians of North America and that they antedate all aboriginal lore.

Some who have examined the strange markings in the flinty boulders say the hieroglyphics closely resemble those of earliest Egypt and may replace the latter as the first written language of humanity.

They are found always in the vicinity of water supplies, the same markings discovered near Bishop appearing also on rocks extending through the Canadian border, down through Washington, Oregon and California to the Mexican line and beyond. This fact, it is argued, indicates that prehistoric tribes marked a highway for their migrating members or for their armies, giving specific directions as to the best water supplies along the way.

French Live Stock on the Decline.

The United States food administration has called attention to the large decrease in live stock in France since the beginning of the war. In cattle this decrease amounted to 2,599,000 up to December, 1917; in sheep the decrease amounted to 6,238,000 head; in hogs to 2,869,000 head. In the period since owing to the food shortage there has been a still further shrinkage. Figures like these indicate that there will be a large and insistent demand for live stock from this country for the foreign trade for many years after peace is finally established.

Good American Family.

Thirty years ago a girl came to this country from Russia to marry Louis Flesher, an immigrant from the same country. They settled in Springfield, Mass., and when the United States entered the war they had four sons, the oldest 23. All of them entered the army and the eldest has distinguished himself in battle. He is the young man who, having lost an arm and an eye while carrying ammunition through shell fire, optimistically exclaimed: "I'm the luckiest Jew in the army. Any other man in my place would have been killed."—American Israelite.

"Olive" Oil.

Over 500 different types of husked rice or paddy were under examination last year at one of the government agricultural farms in Burma, and over 200 types of sassamum were grown at another. Hitherto much of the sassamum grown in Burma has been exported to Europe, where it is used for the production of the so-called "olive oil" for which France and Italy have long been famed.

Try a Tricorn.

Stop to think how often a certain clerk in the bakery department of a certain downtown store helps you to decide on a round marshmallow cake or a square chocolate in preference to a three-cornered devil's food.

"Look at the tricorns left again," snickered the white-aproned diplomat. "Never catch me roo'in' for tris; too hard to wrap."—Indianapolis News.

Borrow to Buy Cattle



"Mixed Farming" is the big money-maker today. Of course, grain and fruit and vegetables pay well—but beef and bacon, butter and cheese, are piling up the profits for the farmer.

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