

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Among the misleading statements given by the German Information Service in the United States, with the view of influencing public opinion, those relating to German finances take a flagrant place. The effort has been made to show that the German financial position is superior in every way to that of England and her allies. That this is not the case is apparent to everybody who considers the rates at which the different countries can borrow—the only way to ascertain a nation's standard of credit. Thus, when the Teuton apologists point to the readiness with which Germany's war loans have been subscribed, we have to compare the rate at which they were made. What are the facts? All the German war loans put out by Germany since the war began were only successful because the interest rates were at 5 per cent. and more. England's war loans have all been well over-subscribed at rates ranging from 2 to 4 per cent.

Again, reference has been made by German writers to the "low gold stock" in the Bank of England as "the weak point in England's financial armament." The Bank of England's gold holdings to-day are \$100,000,000 more than they were at the end of last July, and this increase has been brought about wholly by the ordinary and legitimate operations of commerce, because of her position as a creditor nation and because of her control of the seas. Germany has, however, used most extraordinary methods to bring about the extremely heavy increases in her gold supply. Circulars have been abundantly distributed pleading with the people to exchange their gold for paper money, and it is common knowledge that no one has been allowed to leave the country without first being deprived of his gold coins. The Imperial treasury has been turning millions of paper money which it forces on the people in payment and hopes to liquidate by victory.

Note circulation in Germany has increased 300 per cent. since the war started, and the gold "cover" for this is only about 45 per cent. In other words, for every \$5 in notes Germany can only show gold to the value of \$2.25. England's note circulation has increased only very moderately, but she is able to show \$6 in gold for every \$5 in notes. Moreover, evidence accumulates to show that a huge amount of German legal tender notes have not a vestige of gold cover. That is why German notes are at a big discount in every foreign country, notwithstanding the government shipments of gold to neutral countries in order to try to rectify the exchange.

In the United States the depreciation in German currency is about 13 per cent. It is true that British currency is also at a discount in the neighboring republic, but that is due almost entirely to the purchase of enormous war supplies in that country, which do not necessarily mean munitions. In every other foreign country, however, British currency is at a premium. If the financial situations of England and Germany are carefully studied, the only conclusion that can possibly be reached is that England's standing is vastly superior to that of Germany.

The Dust Devil.

The loss of thousands of lives in war has made infant life more valuable, if possible, than ever. Everything that can be done to stop infant mortality must be done. The summer months claim thousands of little lives. There are two main causes—the fly and the dust devil. The nation has been educated to the fly and we know that the fly deserves no mercy. It carries infection, taints food, and is directly responsible for much illness.

But there remains the "dust devil." There is much less diarrhoea in wet than in dry seasons. The rain cleanses the surface of the ground, and keeps dust laden with germs from flying about. Take a lesson from Nature, and freely water the ground outside your house. The dry weather, especially where the children play, the dancing dust in a shaft of sunlight is deadly, but unless the wind had swept it up it wouldn't be there.

In a house there should be no dry dusting and sweeping. The dust is disturbed, and any germs it may contain settle on food, or are breathed in with the air. Wipe over furniture with damp cloths, therefore, and scrub and wash the floors.

Keep the dust devil down! This, and seeing that in yards, etc., there is no decaying food, animal or vegetable refuse, to attract flies, or to dry and be dispersed in the air, should mean that many valuable little lives will be saved to grow up and fill the war gaps.

Not Difficult.

To teach a child is to give him ideas; to train him is to enable him to reduce those ideas to practice. And it is not difficult to train children. They are adapted to training. No willow to form a basket was ever woven more easily than children may be influenced in right ways by wise parents. They can be fashioned as readily as clay is fashioned in the potter's wheel.

Commander Samson is the youngest commander in the Royal Navy.

About the Household

Selected Recipes.

Beray Eggs.—Fry some sausages. Warm some tomato sauce, fresh or preserved. Add a little meat juice. Fry some eggs in butter, and arrange round the sausages with the tomato sauce.

Souffle of Fish.—Take fish that has been left over from a meal, remove the bones, and cut it into small pieces. Add an equal quantity of uncooked macaroni, and cook the whole in salted water. Drain it, and add one-half the quantity of grated Swiss cheese; mix everything well, put the whole in a baking dish, and small pieces of butter, and cook it in the oven. Serve it hot.

Orange Mint Salad.—Remove the pulp from four large oranges by cutting the fruit into halves, crosswise, and using a spoon. Sprinkle it with two tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar, and add two tablespoonfuls of finely chopped, fresh mint leaves, and one tablespoonful of lemon juice. Chill it thoroughly, and serve it in glasses garnished with a sprig of mint. If the oranges are very juicy, it is well to pour off a portion of the juice before serving.

Bachelor Buttons.—Cream together one cupful of sugar and one-half of a cupful of butter; add one egg and beat the mixture; then add one cupful of bread flour with a pinch of salt, and three tablespoonfuls of almonds chopped fine, and mix the ingredients thoroughly. Drop the batter by teaspoonfuls on a buttered making tin, and spread it in the form of buttons, being careful not to have the dough any thinner on the edges than in the middle. Place one-half of a nut on top of each button, and bake them in a moderate oven.

Cauliflower Pudding.—Break a cauliflower into sprigs, and soak it in cold salted water for half an hour; then drain it. Cover the mixture with sweet milk and boil it until it is tender. Drain it, add one-half of a cupful of thick, sweet cream, the well-beaten yolks of four eggs, one-half of a teaspoonful of salt, a pinch of ground mace, a dash of Cayenne, two tablespoonfuls of soft butter, and the juice of one-half of a lemon. Mix everything well, pour the whole into a buttered pudding dish, and bake it in a moderate oven until it is firm.

Pineapple Wax.—Pineapple wax is especially delicious on ice cream or other frozen desserts. The receipt is as follows: Pare a fresh pineapple, and cut it into cubes of uniform size. Put them into a steamer, and steam them until they are tender (until the cubes look clear). The juice that results is not used, because it is too strong, but it may be of use in flavoring other fruits. It should not be wasted, for it has a very strong pineapple flavor. When the cubes are done, make a thick syrup of water and sugar, and when it boils, drop in the cubes, and cook them until they again look clear. It makes a preserve a little stiffer than a marmalade, and when it is poured over a frozen dessert, it becomes a wax that is very delectable.

Muffins.—This receipt was introduced to certain households by a servant from Hungary. In Hungary, she explained, she used salt pork, but she found bacon better than pork. She sifts 1½ cupfuls of flour with 1½ teaspoonfuls of baking powder, a teaspoonful of sugar and a half teaspoonful of salt. Then she adds a beaten egg, a teaspoonful of melted butter and half a cupful of sweet milk. After beating smooth she adds half a cupful of bacon. The bacon is first fried or broiled until crisp and then chopped and measured. The muffins are baked in hot muffin pans until done and they are eaten without butter. The bits of bacon throughout the muffins give sufficient flavor of the sort butter would supply.

The Banana.

The banana is the housekeeper's main dependence among fruits. It supplies the table all the year around. **Banana Float.**—Place four ripe bananas in a moderately hot oven for 20 minutes. Remove the skins and rub the hot fruit to a pulp. Have ready the well-beaten whites of four eggs, and while the banana pulp is hot, rapidly beat together, with two teaspoons of sugar. When cold serve with whipped cream. This is delicious.

Fried Bananas.—Peel and slice lengthwise in three parts. Have hot

lard deep enough to cover the slices. Fry a light brown, and very carefully lift with a flat cooking shovel, from the fat to kitchen paper to drain a few minutes. Lightly sprinkle with sugar and send to table hot.

Banana Fritters.—Peel two bananas and slice in thin circles. Dip in a batter made of one cup of sifted flour, one egg and one-half cup of sweet milk. Fry in hot lard. Serve with this sauce: Beat the yolks of two eggs with half cup of sugar. Add two tablespoonfuls of orange juice; steam until smooth and thick. Then add two well beaten whites of eggs, dust slightly with grated nutmeg and serve.

Banana Layer Cake.—Bake a white cake batter in layer pans. Ice each layer over the top with a thick coat of icing and over that put a thick layer of round banana slices. Place the layers of cake one over the other and ice the top and sides. It should be eaten while fresh if in summer. In very cold weather, the banana cake will keep for a few days. The filling needs no other flavoring than the bananas.

Things Worth Knowing.

Vinegar heated to the boiling point will soften paint brushes that have become dry and hard.

When boiling a ham leave it in the water in which it has been boiled until it is quite cold. This will make it juicy and tender.

One ounce of Epsom salts added to a gallon of water makes an excellent rinsing mixture for colored blouses and washing dresses.

When a hand embroidered blouse begins to show wear and little holes appear, simply buttonhole around the tear or embroider a dot over the worn place.

If you wish to prevent green vegetables from boiling over, drop a piece of dripping the size of a walnut into the centre of them, just as they commence to boil.

If a glove splits at the thumb or near a seam a sure and permanent way to repair it is to buttonhole the kid either side of the split, then sew the buttonhole edges together.

In using butter with meat the first thing to remember is that the butter should not be burned. Burned fats of any sort are exceedingly indigestible and ruin the flavor of the meat. In using a white sauce with meat, which is a usual procedure with the French cook, great care is taken to have the white sauce thoroughly cooked before it is added to the meat.

According to a man who makes fly paper, resin used to make the paper sticky is soluble in castor oil and any article which has come in contact with the fly paper can be cleansed if the spot is soaked in it.

When making a steamed pudding put a piece of well greased paper over the top before tying the cloth. This will prevent the cloth from becoming greasy, and they are no trouble to wash.

To keep ferns fresh and green all the year round get a large tub, and put into it some water about two inches in depth; stand the pots in this, and allow the water to soak up from the hole in the bottom. The chills should be taken off the water first but on no account pour water on the top of the ferns. Pot flowers may also be kept in this manner.

Useful Table.

This table may help the young housekeeper.

One teaspoonful of salt to one quart of soup.
One teaspoonful of salt to two quarts of flour.
One teaspoonful of soda to one pint of sour milk.
One teaspoonful of extract to one plain loaf cake.
One scant cupful of liquid to two full cupfuls of flour for bread.
One scant cupful of liquid to two cups of flour for muffins.
One scant cupful of liquid to one cupful of flour for batters.
One quart of water to each pound of meat and bone for soup stock.
One-half cup of yeast or one-quarter cake compressed yeast to one pint liquid.
Four peppercorns, four cloves, one teaspoonful of mixed herbs for each quart of water for soup stock.

Developments in Motor Building

By Henry B. Joy.

A student of the trend of the motor car art has seen a wonderful evolution in the past twenty years. The automobile has been as epoch making in the world's history as has any other single step of man's ingenious progress, writes Henry B. Joy, president of a motor company. My father, who died in 1896, never saw a motor car. To-day horses are practically relegated to the "Zoo."

To-day we talk to San Francisco. To-day makes his way by motor car from coast to coast in fifteen days over the rapidly improving roadways without attracting particular attention.

The progressive evolution of mechanical, chemical, electrical science is placing in the possession of the people of the earth daily more development than occurred in each

thousand years prior to the last century.

The motor car reached the stage of practical use first in Europe. Practically Mr. Levasor of Paris, France, devised the transmission system, which, as far as its general scheme is concerned, is unaltered to-day, says the encyclopedia. But inventions breed new inventions. The spark which ignited Mr. Levasor's inventive spirit was the sight of Gottlieb Daimler's crude internal combustion engines propelling boats on the River Seine in connection with the Paris exposition of 1887, says the same authority.

Actually Mr. Levasor and his collaborators had set the world on fire with zeal to further develop his conceptions of the ultimate in individual transportation.



Buying Delicacies for Wounded British Soldiers

An interesting photograph made at a British base in France, where a large number of Canadian soldiers are being nursed back to health. An Englishwoman, the honorary housekeeper of the hospital, is shown bargaining for delicacies for the patients. The peasant saleswomen are evidently keenly interested in the business at hand.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON,
JULY 4.

Lesson I.—Absalom's Failure.—2 Sam. 18, 1-5. Golden Text.—Eph. 6, 1.

I. The Battle Array (Verses 1-4).

Verse 1. Numbered the people.—The word for "number" here is different from the word "number" in 2 Sam. 24, 1. There the word means merely "to count." Here the primary meaning is "to muster," "to inspect," "to review." David did not want numbers only. Like Gideon, he wanted picked men.

Captains of thousands and captains of hundreds.—The usual disposition of the army (see Num. 31, 14; 1 Sam. 8, 12; 22, 7). This military division corresponded to the civil division instituted by Moses (Exod. 18, 25).

2. A third part.—As noted in previous lessons this is the way in which the Hebrew commanders divided their armies (Judg. 7, 16; 9, 43; 1 Sam. 11, 11; 2 Kings 11, 5, 6). The Philistines, at least on one occasion, followed the practice of the Hebrews (1 Sam. 13, 17). The king intended to take the field as chief commander over these divisions. He realized what his influence would be down in the fighting line with his men.

3. Thou art worth ten thousand of us.—The Hebrew literally reads, "There are ten thousand like us." The implication is, "But there is not one like you." Doubtless David was quite ready to stay in the camp, as he did not want to go personally against his son.

Succor us out of the city.—To send reinforcements or to command the retreat if retreat were necessary.

4. The king stood.—To encourage the soldiers by this personal interest as they moved out to battle.

II. The Fight in the Forest of Ephraim (Verses 5-8).

5. The king commanded.—David did not merely request his generals not to hurt Absalom, he commanded them. And all people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.

6. The forest of Ephraim.—As the battle was fought east of the Jordan, this forest could not have been in the central part of Palestine where the tribe of Ephraim settled. It must have been in some part of the great forest of Gilead, east of the Jordan, which, in fact, is a continuation of the great forest of Ephraim in the west side of the Jordan.

8. The forest devoured.—The retreat of Absalom's army through the forest was necessarily hampered by the trees and undergrowth. More men were slain in the retreat through the forest, therefore, than in the actual battle.

III. The Fate of Absalom (Verses 9-15).

9. Absalom chanced to meet.—In the rout Absalom found himself in the midst of David's men. So he took to the densest forest, hoping, of course, to escape.

His Mule.—The mule was the mark of royalty (see 1 Kings 1, 33, 38). Doubtless it was David's own mule. A Great oak.—The Hebrew reads, "The great terebinth." The definite article indicates that the tree was well known. The terebinth is a turpentine tree, something like the oak. In the forest on the east of Jordan there were far more oaks than terebinths, hence a terebinth would be more easily marked, especially if, as in this case, it was unusually large.

His head caught hold.—Doubtless in the low forks of the tree. He was

stunned by the impact, as his mule was galloping in wild fear. Although his hair also became entangled, he did not hang by his hair alone.

10. A certain man.—One of God's unnamed and unsung noblemen.

12. Silver in my hand.—Joab was well known. This man would not have taken a promise from him. Had he dealt with him at all, it would not have been on the basis of actual cash.

13. Thou thyself wouldst have set thyself against me.—In no sense was Joab to be trusted. He was a great general. On this account David used him. As politics makes strange bedfellows, so does war break down personal ethical standards.

14. Took three darts.—Absalom was not killed outright. Joab brutally struck at him with "rods" or "staves" (as the Hebrew word indicates)—that is, anything that first came to hand. His armorbearers actually killed the unfortunate youth (verse 15).

15. Slew him.—Joab doubtless thought the quickest way to end the rebellion was to kill the rebel.

NUMBERS WILL SETTLE WAR

SO A NAVAL AND MILITARY EXPERT DECLARES.

The Relative Positions of the Allies and the Enemy Compared.

Mr. Hilaire Belloc, the eminent English naval and military writer in a recent speech declared that the fact of numbers in this war was all important. Mr. Belloc said:—

At the present time, as has been the case right along from the opening of the war, the factor of numbers is all important. It is impossible to discuss war intelligently without realizing that fact. Rhetorical energy is wasted when it merely describes organization or efficiency and does not discuss numbers.

The enemy's organization and efficiency are no better than those of the allies, but he has more men, and that is an essential to success. The German's latest success in Galicia has been gained by weight of numbers. I say that because the Russians are unable to provide themselves with the necessary munitions. It is superiority in numbers which has just given France her victory north of Arras, and the whole problem is one surrounding that factor.

The Siege Campaign.

What is the decision the enemy is seeking? He is now just about equal with the allies, perhaps just a trifle superior, for he has secured his last and possibly his best recruitment during the past three weeks. The allies are progressing more slowly, but will improve on the present rate very rapidly. The campaign has become a great siege, but there is a generally false impression of what constitutes "siege." It actually arises when one force constrains another to manoeuvre within a limited area. A siege does not mean defeat, it does not mean starvation, but it can only end in three ways—first, relief of the besieged; second, sorties which break the enemy ring; or third, capitulation and defeat.

In this western siege we have a singular position, for at the outside the allies were wholly inferior in numbers, yet pinned and confined the enemy armies within limited areas. Probably in November, when the siege began, the proportion of men stood six to eight in favor of the enemy. It is certain that by the end of May equality in this respect will have been secured, through the en-

The Soldier's Mother

My bonnie boy he went away
To fight across the sea;
I knew th'etars that fell that day
Were heaven's gift to me.

But I was proud, though I was sad,
For after many years,
He stood, just as his father had,
And kissed away my tears.

In some far spot beneath the sod
My winsome laddie lies,
While I must humbly thank my God
For tears that fill my eyes.

Oh! I have known the joys of life,
Beheld its hopes and fears;
But when the heart is torn with strife
God's greatest gift is tears.

My only son, my greatest joy,
That is the gift I gave;
And if I weep, I'm proud my boy
Lies in a soldier's grave.

He has no graven monument,
But what is that to me;
He died a man, so I'm content.
These tears? God set them free.

Mothers, if when you mourn your dead,
Your grief o'erwhelms your pride,
Think had they lived then in their stead
An Empire must have died.

emy wastage in attempting to secure greater liberty of action and by the allies recruitments.

Expensive Sorties.

Sorties such as we have heard of lately are enormously expensive things, and, in proportion as they fall, they leave the besiegers more and more exhausted, yet for many weeks past the enemy in the West has done nothing more than in the nature of sorties. Every time he secures fresh groupings of troops he makes his effort. There is no corresponding need for the besiegers to try and break through, whereas the besieged are lost unless they can do so—just what the enemy has been trying to do all the past winter twice against Warsaw, again at the Carpathian front, and now most tremendous of all in Western Galicia.

The effect of this last effort was local and subsidiary, and it can have no effect on the final issue of the war unless the Russian line is broken. Making one dent in a line is unimportant unless it is followed by the line being pierced. The unfortunate fact is that Russia cannot provide herself with heavy artillery munitions or with equipment in anything like sufficiency. If the Dardanelles were opened what is now merely a tiny stream of munitions would become a river. It has to be remembered that always in any operation of war there are two things: First, local successes, and second, securing of the ultimate objective. In Galicia if the Russian line has not been broken the effort has failed of its object. The enemy has gained a subsidiary success, but the Russian line has not yet been pierced.

The Dardanelles Problem.

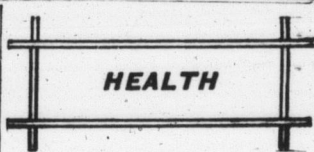
So far as the operations in the Dardanelles are concerned the Asiatic coast is of no importance once the dominating shores on the European side are gained. There are difficulties facing the landed force. One is in the storming of Achi Baba, and another greater one further inland is in the reduction of the precipitous Pasha Bahr, whose escarpments closely resemble the chalk downs of our own south coast and are regarded as inaccessible to an invading force. However, so soon as our troops gain Pasha Bahr the Narrows will be negligible and the way to the Dardanelles will lie open.

I have only one thing to say in closing. Just because we are coming to the critical moment of the war it becomes all important to keep our heads. It is because of that knowledge that the critical time has arrived that the enemy is redoubling his acts, endeavoring to work on weak nerves and produce a disarray of judgment among those he is attacking.

"Keep Calm."

These attacks have been futile so far as the issue of the war is concerned, whether the shelling of Dunkirk, the occupation of Libau, the sinking of the Lusitania, the burning of Southend, or the coming raid on London—and there will be one before the end—or the usage of gases. All such things are done to produce chaos in the minds of belligerent countries and among neutrals. The only way to meet these acts, which will increase in violence and horror, is to keep calm. Whether these acts are foolish or merely atrocious, during them all we must keep the military problem before us; it will not be solved by the sinking of the Lusitania or the shelling of unarmored towns, but will be won and lost in the field.

The military problem alone governs the issue, and while one may regret many things which are being done, that regret must not be allowed to confuse the issue. The strain is going to be very heavy in the present magnitude of the operations on which we are engaged. During this period it is perfectly futile to criticize existing authority. I have no particular love for the professional politician, but, when fighting for existence, anyone in control of the State must be obeyed. Military discipline must rule, though it very often happens that even superior officers show lamentable ignorance. "Once war is declared 'Follow the King' is the only cry. You can do your clearing up afterwards."



Kissing.

One who dislikes to observe fashions in human conduct cannot help concluding that kissing is no longer a universal feminine custom. Women have learned to meet and part, at least in public places, without open endearments; which is an excellent thing both as a matter of good taste and of hygiene. Foolish customs of ten survive endless scolding on hygienic grounds, but they are usually vulnerable from the standpoint of social convention; and kissing is becoming unfashionable!

If we could only bring promiscuous kissing under the ban for everyone, how many colds and coughs and minor infections we should be spared! We cannot think of forbidding the kiss between parents and children, or between brothers and sisters, and yet everyone ought to exercise the greatest caution, especially during the winter months, when colds and gripes are prevalent, especially among families that are predisposed to such infections. Why do we calmly exchange the germs of a complaint that we sternly isolate after it has declared itself?

Affection can be shown without the touching of lip to lip. No caress is more charming than the gentle touch of cheek to cheek that well-bred Frenchwomen use; parents ought to teach children to do all their kissing in that way. Even people who are in perfect health harbor microbes that can cause violent illness in those who are susceptible to them. Certain germs, those of pneumonia, for instance, are very often present in the mouth and throat; they are for the time being, harmless to their host, but might be fatal if communicated in a kiss to some one more susceptible to their poison.

Many persons continue the practice of kissing long after they have learned of its dangers, because they fear to be misunderstood; but there are other and harmless ways of showing their affection. Select one of them, and accustom those you love to that. You will find that they will soon regard the new caress as welcome as the kiss.

Standing v. Sitting.

A girl's ill-health can frequently be attributed to the fact that she stands too much. This applies particularly to shopgirls and waitresses, who spend about a third of their hard-working lives in a standing position.

Clerks, on the other hand, are declared by physicians to sit too much. Long hours spent sitting at a desk, in a more or less cramped position, can seriously affect the health, and very often they set up one or other of those ailments which bar the enjoyment of normal old age.

What is the remedy? In many instances, unfortunately, it is a case of *saute qui peut*. In other words, we must devise our own means of trying to overcome the evils that beset us. But more chairs for shopgirls and high standing desks for clerks might help to solve a difficulty which has got to be solved sooner or later. The ideal to aim for is normality. When a girl feels tired from standing she should be given the opportunity to sit down, and when a man feels cramped from sitting he should be able to rise for a stretch. Standing, of course, is very different from walking. In the latter case one is obtaining healthy exercise at the same time.

But even walking can be easily overdone—especially by those who lead sedentary lives.

The twenty-six letters of the alphabet may be transposed in many millions of different ways. All the inhabitants of the globe could not in a thousand years write out all the possible transpositions of the twenty-six letters, even supposing that each wrote forty pages daily, each page containing forty different transpositions.