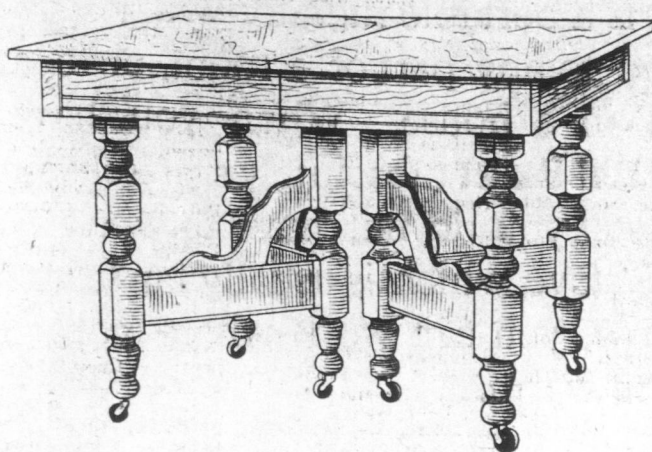


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Automatic Pistols. The New Weapon.

(By F. A. McKenzie.)

From the events of last week one important fact emerges—the deadly efficiency of the automatic pistol. To many it has been shown for the first time by the Houndsditch conflicts that the coming of the automatic pistol has brought about a revolution in modern weapons.

The Houndsditch murderers had automatic pistols. The police had revolvers. The man armed to-day with a revolver has as much chance against an opponent with a self-loading pistol as had the armies of the Dervish, with their spears and swords, against Lord Kitchener on the field of Omdurman. This is no exaggeration. The revolver has an effective range of from twenty-five to thirty yards. The most powerful automatic pistols are sighted to a thousand yards and even very small pistols can kill at fifty yards. The revolver is a difficult weapon. Avoiding technical terms, let me say that when fired it shows a decided tendency for the line of fire to rise. To allow for this deflection in the passage of the bullet requires both skill and practice. In the automatic pistol the rise is far less, thus making the aim much more direct and certain. With the automatic pistol the rate of fire is many times greater. When loading a revolver you slip each cartridge into its own chamber, after ejecting the old cartridge cases. With the automatic pistol you slip in a clip of bullets, ranging in number from three to twenty, by what is practically one movement of the hand, and they subsequently eject themselves. At an emergency a man has seldom time to reload his revolver when the last cartridge is fired. With the automatic the skilled shot can fire seven aimed shots a second, or seventy a minute, including reloading.

Points of Comparison.

That the revolver has good points too few men deny. For dealing with one or two men at a distance of a few yards there is much to be said in its favour. The low velocity with which the bullet travels makes it valuable in stopping an opponent. The more powerful automatic pistols have a way of sending their bullets clean through their object, making a small hole, and leaving him perhaps unaware for some seconds that he has been struck. The force with which the bullets of the automatic pistol travel can be judged from the fact

that the bullets from the larger type will go through more than two feet of pine, when near the muzzle. Old world armour would be riddled through and through by them.

There are three principal types of automatic pistol on the market to-day—the Mauser, the Browning, and the Webley-Scott. The best known of these is undoubtedly the Mauser, a weapon which first came prominently before the public notice during the Boer War. It is really a holster pistol, weighing two and a half pounds, and with a case that can be used as a butt, thus enabling it to be fired from the shoulder as a rifle. It takes an eighty-five grain bullet, and its calibre is very little less than that of the British Service rifle. It is simply constructed, amazingly strong, and has apparently an unending firing capacity. I have heard of a Mauser firing ten thousand shots without apparent deterioration.

The usual size of a Mauser takes a clip of six bullets. This, it will be remembered, was the kind used by the Sidney Street Terrorists. One of the newer patterns will take no fewer than twenty cartridges in its magazine. It is distributed in this country by the well known gun-house of Wesley Richards, and during the past twelve years they have sold no fewer than six thousand. Every one of these is numbered and a record is kept of their destination. When news came that the Sidney Street Terrorists had left two Mausers in the ruins, Mr. A. H. Gale, the director in London, offered to trace their records and find who bought them. When I visited the New Bond Street shop on Saturday the police had not even replied to the offer. A strange commentary on modern detective methods!

The Browning Pistol.

The Browning pistol is the type that was largely used by the Russian revolutionists during the uprising against the Czar's Government. I well remember on one occasion when travelling through Poland in those days some peasants came up to me and inquired if I were the English agent who had brought them their promised Brownings. They were much disgusted when they found that I had nothing for them. The Browning pistols are controlled in this country by the old American revolver house of Colt, and the pistols are known as Automatic Colts.

The Webley-Scotts are manufactured by the gun house of Webley. The Webley-Scott and Colt have one undoubted advantage over the Mauser, that of portability. Herr Mauser refuses to make a small weapon, declaring that he has all he can do to meet the demand, although they make larger types also. The miniatures of these two firms are practically weapons for the waistcoat pocket, less than five inches long, and yet able to send their charges home as heavy revolvers could not. The price of an automatic pistol varies roughly from two to six guineas.

The Automatic Principle.

In the revolver the central principle is the revolving chamber, in which the cartridges are placed one by one, and where each barrel is brought in turn into position by the cocking of the trigger or the recoil from the explosion. In the automatic pistol, when the clip of cartridges is pressed into the magazine and the clip itself is pulled out the breach bolt springs forward. The weapon is then ready. With the firing of the first shot the empty cartridge is automatically ejected and the second forced into readiness. This process repeats itself until the whole of the cartridges are used. There is no trouble with reloading; no hammer to pull back into place. You simply press lightly with the finger on the trigger for each shot. The statement made at one of the Houndsditch inquiries that when the trigger is once pulled the pistol continues to fire until all the cartridges are used, like a machine gun, is wrong. The trigger has to be pressed for each shot.

It is obvious even to one unfamiliar with arms that a weapon four times as rapid and with from six to forty times greater range, far more certain, and far more sure in its aim than the revolver must eventually replace it. This has already been discovered on the Continent. When I was in Warsaw in 1904 the police complained bitterly that they were powerless against rioters and revolutionists. "Our policemen draw their revolvers," said one of the heads of the police to me—a man who a few weeks afterwards was blown to pieces by a bomb—before they can cock them they are shot down by Brownings. Men stand away at a distance which the revolvers cannot reach and pick the police out. This has been altered in many parts of Russia and in other Continental countries. The police there have their automatic pistols to-day. Apart from the question of regularly arming London police, an issue which stands on a wholly different plane, common sense demands that when weapons are wanted our police should have the best. The best small firearm without question to-day is the automatic pistol.

Summers Knocked Out.

London, Jan. 25.—Harry Lewis, the American welterweight, who won the championship of England a year ago from Young Joseph, knocked out Johnny Summers, the English aspirant or the title, in four rounds to-night.

A big crowd witnessed the so, filling every seat in the Olympia. It was a savage fight while it lasted, and honours were even in the first two rounds. The men insisted upon clinching at every possible chance. The third round was the hottest of the go, both men trying desperately for a knockout.

In the fourth round, Lewis rushed Summers to the ropes and knocked him out with a straight right. After Summers had taken the count Lewis picked him up and carried him to his corner, amid great cheering.

The men were matched at 144 lbs. but when they weighed in at 3 o'clock in the afternoon it was found that the American tipped the scale at 148½ pounds. Summers weighed 140½ lbs. As a result of his overweight Lewis said a forfeit of \$500.

Relics of Stone Age.

Arthur Dioso, F. R. G. S., has recently completed a series of explorations in Yucatan which bring to light many new facts about the stupendous ruins which stretch through the country in a chain 300 miles long.

The most amazing thing about these ruins, according to Mr. Dioso, is that the people who possessed such high architectural skill and the knowledge of rich and graceful decorative arts, belonged to the stone age and had no knowledge of metals. These wonders in stone were carved with flint implements and a civilization which has been compared to that of Egypt grew up without even the use of bronze and iron. —From the Chicago Tribune.

Fell Into Vat of Lye.

Foreman of a Soap Factory Slips on a Plank.

New York, Jan. 22.—John Bethon, foreman of a soap factory on Staten Island, slipped on a plank and plunged into a vat of lye up to his neck to-day. When dragged out the flesh was nearly eaten from his bones and the sight of both eyes are gone. He was still alive to-night, but in a critical condition.



A few minutes after Zam-Buk is applied to a cut, a burn, a scratch, or any sore place, the pain is stopped. Mothers should never forget this, because it is one reason why Zam-Buk is the best thing for children's injuries. It stops their crying and gives them ease. Right from the instant of application healing begins, and Zam-Buk heals quickly. Note these statements from reliable persons, some of whom you may know.

Baby's Sore Healed.

"My baby girl had a bad sore on her chin, which was very painful, and caused her to be very restless. We put on some ZAM-BUK, and in a wonderfully short time it gave her ease. In a few days the sore was completely healed."

MRS. E. COCKER, Yorkton, Sask.

Rusty Nail Pierced Finger.

"I ran a rusty nail under my thumb nail while at work. The pain was terrible and I feared blood-poisoning from the dirty, rusty nail! I melted some ZAM-BUK and ran it into the wound, and it stopped the pain almost instantly. It kept away inflammation and in a few days the wound was quite healed."

MR. A. H. ORTH, Shipley, Ont.

A Bad Burn.

"In moving some wood in the stove, I burned my thumb very badly. In a few minutes it was covered with a big white blister, and the pain was very bad. ZAM-BUK was applied, and in quick time it gave me ease!"

H. E. JESNER, Organist, Carman, Man.

Take this advice!

If you have some sore place, some skin disease, some cut, or burn or ulcer, why continue to suffer pain? Every hour you suffer is an hour wasted. You cannot do your best work in pain; you cannot enjoy your leisure. ZAM-BUK saves far more than it costs, by saving you time in this way.

ZAM-BUK has "short cut" to skin healing. There is nothing which acts so quickly and so surely. Use it for all skin injuries and diseases, Eczema, Ulcers, Boil Poison, etc., and for Piles. All druggists and stores, 50 cents a box, or post free from ZAM-BUK CO., Toronto, for price. Refuse harmful imitations.

Address all applications for samples and retail orders to T. McMurdo & Co., St. John's, Newfoundland.

The Evening Chit-Chat

By RUTH CAMERON



Interrupting.

It is really astonishing to me to notice how many people, otherwise well-bred, are guilty of this offence against tact.

I know a dear little hostess, with charming manners for the most part, who continually embarrasses her guests at the table by breaking in on what someone is saying to ask if they do not wish to be helped to this or that.

Of course she only does this because she is anxious for the well being of her guests, but surely they would not be in danger of suffering the pangs of hunger if she waited for a lull in the conversation to offer to replenish their plates.

Blatant and open interrupting of what another is saying by some remark of one's own is, of course, a fault easily recognized and promptly

condemned, but there are some less obvious forms of interrupting that I consider quite as bad offences.

For instance to interrupt a general conversation on a subject which does not happen to interest one by abruptly turning the trend onto some subject which one does like, seems to me quite as bad as to break in when another is speaking.

And then it seems to me that the blank stare of those people, who always think of what they are going to say next while you are talking, deserves to be classed as an interruption. It is a silent one to be sure, but none the less irritating, as all who have suffered it can testify.

Another brand of interrupter is the person who breaks in with a pun or joke, or something he has been rehearsing of right in the middle of our narrative and shunts you so completely off the track that it is impossible, or at least most awkward to attempt to get back again.

If I had begun with my favorite lead, a question, and asked, "Do you ever interrupt?" you would doubtless have mentally answered "Of course not."

But now that I have explained all I mean by interrupting perhaps you won't be quite so positive.

How about it?

Ruth Cameron



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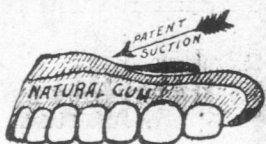
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