

JAPAN'S ADVANCE FROM OBSCURITY

METHODS OF THE MEN WHO CREATED THE GREAT GERMAN EMPIRE ADOPTED IN DETAIL

JAPAN'S extraordinary success of the last decade is the result of a faithful imitation of another wonderfully successful nation. Germany is Japan's model.

Thirty-five years ago, when the Mikado's land began to feel the first thrill of the new life, the counselors of the ruler sought a model which could be followed in the effort for a new and progressive national existence.

Germany, at that time in full flush of the wonderful years in which the French, a victory that gave the Fatherland an impetus that has carried it forward in leaps and bounds, attracted Nippon.

The German Empire had just been newly formed out of a heterogeneous collection of states that hitherto had had little in common, and between whom only discord had reigned. Yet so perfect was the system evolved by the genius of Emperor William, Count von Moltke and Bismarck that the new nation had been able to overwhelm the French, the nation that produced Napoleon, greatest soldier of the century, and which only a few years before the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war had emerged a victor in the struggle for the freedom of Italy.

Here was the country whose career Japan wished to emulate. The imitative Oriental made a study of the Fatherland, its government, its institutions, its military and governmental systems.

And so faithful has been the imitation that in a few years Japan has emerged from almost barbarity into one of the world's first half dozen powers.

The story of how Japan elected to follow in the footsteps of Germany, was told recently by General Baron Nishi, Inspector-General of Military Instruction in the Japanese Army, who has spent many months in Germany studying the military system of the War Lord's domain.

He drew many parallels to prove his case. Just as Germany had a war of preparation to get ready for the main struggle that was to make or break the nation, so had Japan.

Germany, of that part of it then known as Prussia, first tested the efficiency of its military system against Austria in 1866, and scored a speedy victory. In this conflict the best military minds of the nation were engaged in a close study of the art of warfare.

The strength and weakness of the army was inspected with minutest care. This war meant nothing but preparation for the greater conflict soon to come. And when Germany met France, she was ready for that war because the equipment used against Austria four years before had been developed and prepared, improved and increased.

So with Japan. The quarrel with China afforded a convenient opportunity for a comparison that would give data, would enable Oyama and other foremost military authorities to see just how formidable was the military and naval engine they had been building up.

The triumph was quick and complete. What faults were discovered were remedied in time for the war which followed. In that struggle it is well known that the giant of the north was caught napping, and lost to the foe that had been silent.

Germany was ready. France was not. So anxious was Bismarck for war in 1870 that the famous forged telegram of Ems was made to afford a pretext for an instant declaration of hostilities.



FIELD MARSHAL COUNT HELMUTH VON MOLTKE, GERMANY'S GREAT TACTICIAN



FIELD MARSHAL OYAMA JAPAN'S VON MOLTKE



MARQUIS ITO, THE BISMARCK OF JAPAN



PRINCE BISMARCK THE IRON CHANCELLOR OF THE FATHERLAND

of living up to the model, appropriated Corea for its meed of success in the struggle that resulted in the defeat of Russia.

Japan has its Bismarck, too, in the person of a great leader, the Marquis Ito.

Like Bismarck, Ito was not content to remain statesman purely and simply. When the war with China came in 1894, the Premier took command of a Japanese fleet, and conducted himself with bravery and skill.



LOUIS NAPOLEON'S LETTER OF SURRENDER AT SEDAN FROM THE ORIGINAL PAINTING BY ANTON VON WERNER

it out and held it over the slit in his trousers. Leaving the areaway, he hurrying the sidewalk, making apparently a great effort to hold the newspaper in place.

The wind was blowing and whoever cared to look noticed the man's predicament. At the steps of a big house in Seventy-second street he stopped and pretended to tie the paper about his leg.

The graffer greeted the man briefly lifted the newspaper and remarked: "It just had an accident over on Columbus avenue. Truck showed against a stake and tore me pants awful. Wonder if you could lend me some safety pins?"

It was successful. From that house the man carried away not only a readily salable pair of trousers, but a hat and coat as well. A quick trip to a corner saloon to toss his bundle and the tale of the torn trouser leg was carried to another house in the neighborhood.

An observer with more sheer curiosity than police instinct watched the collection of six bundles from six houses in Seventy-second street before he reluctantly left the window and went in to dinner.

The Infalible Editor.

"Lafcadio Hearn, the wonderful writer, worked on newspapers in his youth," said a publisher, "and the ruthless way his stories were changed, cut and butchered was a great work to his heart."

"In after years Hearn took a malicious joy in collecting stories about editors—editors and their superior and omniscient way with manuscript."

"One of his stories was of an editor to whom a subscriber said: 'I enjoyed the poem on the three ages of man in today's paper, Mr. Sheers; I enjoyed it immensely. Do you know, though, I thought that it was originally written by the poet of the ages of man?'"

AMERICANS TAKING UP DIABOLO

An Old French Game Seen at Summer Resort Hotels.

DIABOLO, the game which Paris has revived in the last couple of years, is being taken up at the summer resorts in America, and for a very good reason—it has been discovered that it is a wonderful beauty exercise and fitness repair.

It is not so violent as tennis, nor does it require a court, but it calls for skill, and excessively graceful postures are assumed when the intricacies of the sport are mastered.

At the summer resorts the game has been introduced by returning travelers, who exhibit the novelty on displays and entertain their friends with a display of their prowess.

In the ballrooms the game is turned into a dance during the afternoons, piano music making an accompaniment.

It looks very simple, but the beginner will find that the knack of balancing and catching the dancing bobbin demands skill and dexterity.

Diabolo is inexpensive, although there are elaborate sets for the use of grown up players. These are made with bamboo rods and silken strings, the bobbin being of celluloid with rubber protectors.

Each bobbin consists of two celluloid cones finished with protectors at the base and joined in the center, forming a perfectly balanced spool, through the interior of which a spring runs.

The two rods or sticks are light in weight and less than two feet in length, united by a slender cord about two yards long.

The player's object is to balance the spool on the string to set it spinning rapidly, to throw it into the air and to catch it again, without touching the spool with the hands.

It can also be played by from two to four persons on a tennis court over a net two yards high. But before a player reaches this stage he must learn to manipulate the bobbin alone.

Experts and athletes wear tennis clothes and canvas shoes when playing, but the sport really requires no special uniform. Women can play it in evening dress, and as an after-dinner diversion it promises to be more popular than pingpong or pool at country houses and hotels.

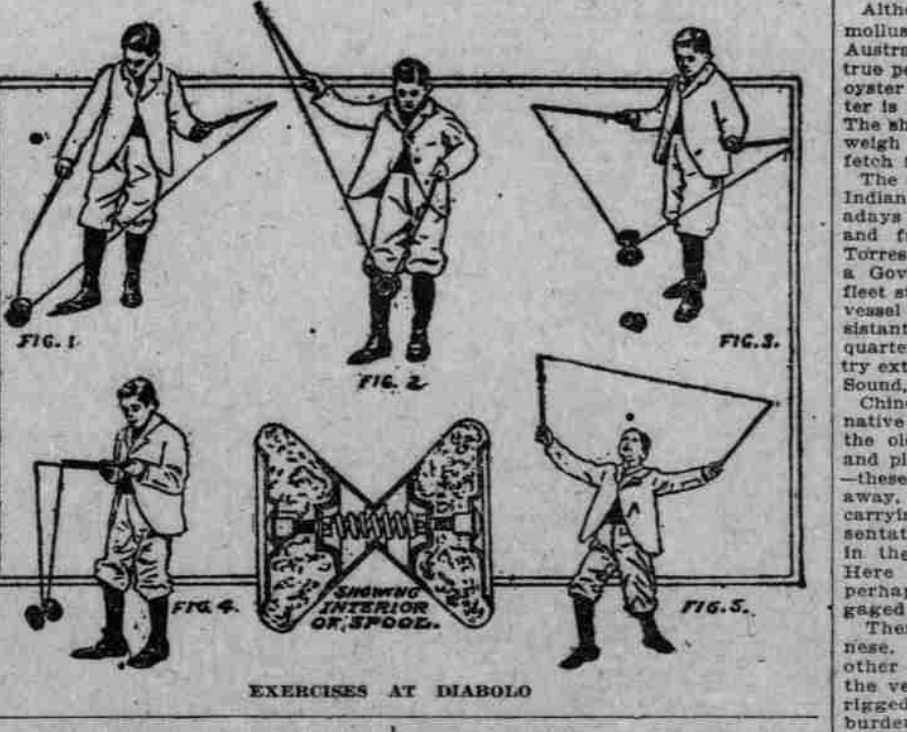
As an exercise for the arms and wrists rendered firm after a week or two at the game.

The skilled diabolo player is to be distinguished by a clean cut chin, clear, quick eyes and beautiful hands. The waist also grows supple and the hips small, while the ankles and feet are particularly benefited.

Large calf development disappears and a graceful carriage in walking results.

As the practice of the game renders the player particularly attractive, which is not the rule with most reduction exercises, it is hardly to be wondered at that diabolo has met with favor with women players.

Curious Turtle Catching. Chicago Record-Herald. A curious mode of catching turtles is practiced in the West Indies. It consists in attaching a ring and a line to the tail of a species of sucker fish, which is then thrown overboard and immediately makes for the first turtle he can spy, to which he attaches himself very firmly by means of a sucking apparatus arranged at the tip of his head.



EXERCISES AT DIABOLO

PEARL-DIVING NOT DANGEROUS

Former Naked Divers Replaced by Men in Armor Who Stay Under Water for Hours.

THE era of naked divers exposed to peril from sharks has passed away. Modern progress equips the pearl diver with a suit of india rubber, copper breastplate, with leaden weights back and front; helmet, glass pannelled and with telephonic attachments; air pipes, life lines and a submarine searchlight.

Thus equipped the pearl diver may spend six or eight hours at the bottom of the sea, whereas in olden times three minutes made a record.

Although pearls are found in nearly all mollusks and even in univalves, like the Australian abalones, a kind of barnacle, true pearls are produced only by the pearl oyster or mother of pearl shell.

The shells are as big as dinner plates and weigh two pounds when cleaned. They fetch from \$50 to \$750 a ton.

The ancient fisheries were chiefly in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf, but nowadays the best pearls come from Ceylon and from Australian waters, especially Torres Straits.

pearl to work in comfort a hundred fathoms down.

A good day's work is anything more than 200 pairs of shells. The business is absolutely speculative. One diver without securing anything of greater value than a few seed pearls, while another may take a fortune of a day's gathering.

The most famous pearl discovered in Australia of late years is known as the Southern Cross. It consists of a cluster of nine pearls in the shape of a cross. This freak of nature was picked up at low water on the Lacpede Island by a beachcomber named Clark, who, after burying it for some time for superstitious reasons, sold it for \$60; later it fetched \$50,000.

The worst enemy the Australian pearl divers have are the storms that annually visit the coast. As to sharks, they rarely attack a diver in modern dress, and he can always frighten them off when they persist in following him by letting a few air bubbles out of his dress.

Other enemies are the sea snakes, the smaller octopus, the stingray and the blowfish.

set of pearls may be they are invariably strung on fine silk thread.

A Good Retort. The late Robert Pinkerton, of the great detective agency, said a Chicago detective, "was a religious man, and he liked evangelist preach in San Francisco. This evangelist shocked his congregation a good deal. He told them that his grandmother had been a good and moral woman, but she had never professed religion, and therefore he was confident that at that moment the aged lady was suffering eternal torment."

"A young man, use at this, and with a look of disgust started for the door. The evangelist pointed an accusing finger at him.

"There is a young man," he cried, "who is also on the downward path."

The young man turned. His face was very red. But he smiled pleasantly, and said, in a loud, pleasant voice: "It is just like you, my message I can take to your grandmother, sir."

How the Last Man Will Live. Metropolitan Magazine. The earth is ever radiating away heat into space. And so at last comes a vision of earthy cherubim, hopping and great unemotional intelligences, and little hearts, fighting fiercely to ether perforce and fiercely against the cold that grips them tighter and tighter. For the world is cooling—slowly and inevitably it grows colder as the years roll by.