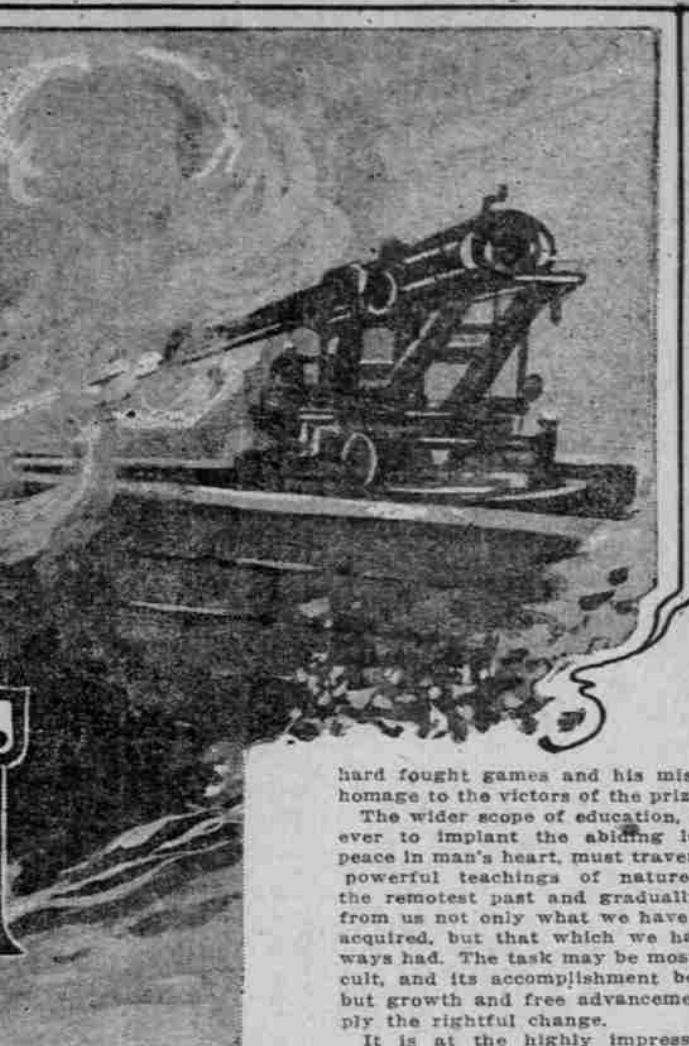


PSYCHOLOGY of WAR



" HOW "
DEFENCE INVITES ATTACK BY
CAMPBELL
MAC CULLOCH

" ORIGIN "
AND LOVE OF CONFLICT BY
GEORGE SHERWOOD
HODGINS



THE world's interest has seemingly centered on the outcome of the struggle between France and Germany, wholly irrespective of the situation that both these combatants entered the European conflict as accessories after the initial fact of war as instituted by Austria against Serbia. The pawn has been pushed aside from the great chessboard, and the battle is between the greater pieces. Psychologically this condition of affairs is not astonishing, for the Franco-Prussian conflict really settled nothing, merely advancing a problem upon the attention of posterity, and both parties to the war of 1870 fully realized it.

Few will dispute the statement that should a man strip himself to his under-shirt and place himself in an attitude of defence upon a crowded street he is likely to find his fears realized by a dozen attacks in an equal number of minutes. An armed defence is a plain invitation to attack; a fortified position is a perpetual challenge to assault. Human nature is built upon that plan, and yet, from the day when Alexander found the villages of the Hyrcanians fenced about with thorn hedges, the fallacious apothegm of Horace, "In peace, as a wise man he should make suitable preparations for war," has gone unchallenged and undetected. "Throughout the ages man has gone on hurling mute defiance at the rest of his fellow men, and even now, with the greatest of world conflicts in progress, he cannot see that the very fact of preparedness has but worked to precipitate the very thing he has feared.

Germany is not without interest in the psychological consideration of the war problem, for from 1871 to 1899 she underwent what is known as the "offensive period." Her swift and decisive victory had bred in her a mental appetite for further conquests; then began the true German era of warlike preparation. It is not generally believed that she feared reprisal from France—at least not until 1899, when she awoke to the fact that France had not forgotten her indignities and was making provision against a repetition of them. Germany had built few fortresses along the French line. She took over Metz and strengthened it, but considered it more as a base from which to operate than as a position from which to defend her national integrity. From this point on Diederhofen she built small positions. Southeast from Metz to Colmar and Biesel were others, but none of these have been considered as anything but bases of operation and practically none of them came into being until after 1899. Viewing the growing power of France, Germany made preparations, it is true, but they took an offensive form. She established 12 great strategic railway stations between Cologne and the Belgian line, she organized every foot of rail she owned or bought in the direction of its value in hurrying troops to the frontier, and her every effort along the frontier since that time has been in counter-move to the French defenses.

When France pushed forward a fort, Germany has established and organized a mole of attack. The present result is simply a historically inevitable outcome of the policy of defense. The patient job foresees this attitude of the human mind and the consequences it entailed when he cried, "The thing that I greatly feared has come upon me."

If Germany has not organized herself defensively along her western frontier, she has done so to the East, for she soon saw that the enemy she feared lay behind the Russian frontier. There she has Koenigsberg, Danzig, Thorn, Posen and Glogau—all modern and highly developed defensive fortifications. Mark the result: Russian armies are hammering at the walls of these, flowing by them hurrying onward to Berlin. By this time some or all of them may have fallen to the Tsar. Germany feared no invasion from France, she did fear one from Russia. France fears no invasion from Italy or Spain, and she has reduced her defensive tactics along these lines to the minimum. Germany has had no fear of an Austrian invasion, but along her 200 miles of North Sea coast she has fortifications of unquestionable value, and has pushed out these defenses against Great Britain to the extent of making Helgoland a fortress of almost impenetrable strength.

Defense invites attack. No matter how you view it, the fact that the organization of defenses precedes the attack is the greatest potential factor in bringing the attack about. It may be argued that to neglect defensive preparations would be suicidal, and yet, as more than one statesman has pointed out, the surest defenses to be without it. For years the proponents of great standing armies and of great navies have vociferously shouted that these were the surest possible guarantees of peace. They have proved by every rule of warfare since the siege of Nineveh that no other guarantee has been worth a rush, and now they have had the folly of their mouthings proved to their teeth. The nations are like Cadmus of old—they have sown the dragon's teeth and have reaped armed men. As in the tale, these have fallen at once upon each other.

LOADING a cannon to the muzzle and firing it off does not give any strength to the gun, but it proves, if the gun survives, that it was strong. This experiment, if applied to a large number of cannons would, roughly speaking, be equivalent to nature's process of the elimination of the weak by the survival of the strong. It may not be a kindly way of securing the result, but it is efficient. If we say that only the strong have survived, the fact accounts for the severe competition among races which exists, and it may point the way for investigation into the origin and love of armed conflict, which we know to be one of the strange contradictions in human civilization. The glitter of the soldier's trappings, the imposing show of force and the effective precision of unified action, all have their place in producing a strong impression on the minds of possible rivals. There must be, and there is, a cause which still in some seemingly mysterious way dominates the thought of mankind and bids one love the conflict which he may not justify.

A glance at what may be considered as the origin of armed conflict and its practice at this day takes our thoughts back to the animal progenitors of the human race. In these lower forms of life we find that conflict was practically the normal condition. In the course of time the multiplication of species brought with it competition among individuals for the purpose of maintaining life. Natural selection constantly rooted out the weaker, and when conflict took place it rendered competition more severe among the stronger. The capture of prey or the securing of food was an influence powerful enough to modify the bodily structure of the brute. Among those that were hunted and preyed upon a like process was simultaneously going on. The hunted had to develop new powers. They had to become more fleet, more wary and more astute in order to survive the attacks of their enemies. Those that preyed upon others underwent changes in form and function to meet the developing powers of their prey. The whole effort was to make and to resist war. The forces at work were potent to remould the body and they were competent to make a deep and lasting impression on the low order of mind which was evolving in the brute.

COMPETITION among animals for the capture of prey and the physical exertion involved in the process of capture were productive of strength and endurance. Successful endeavor brought with it satisfaction and rest after the strenuous chase. Not only was the capture of prey at all times more or less difficult, but in times of scarcity a fight for possession often followed the struggle for capture. In either case the reward was the same, and a low order of pleasure was produced, always and of necessity accompanied with the slight of blood, the cry of pain and the death struggle of the victim. In the selection of a mate there was frequently the fiercest rivalry, and the victory was accompanied by the same incidental slight of pain and blood and death. The habitual practice of violence, always with exertion, wounds and the visible evidence of pain, and this as the inevitable concomitant of victory and satisfaction, constituted a fierce kind of joy. As time went on a dim idea of the pain involved by the violent death of the victim may have arisen in the brute consciousness by reason of the wounds he received. This, if experienced, probably heightened the savage joy of the victor. In his mind there was the satisfaction of possession after the mastering of opposition by force. These feelings were constantly associated with victory, and in the lapse of time they became confused and gradually they ceased to be distinguishable at all. The constant sight of suffering, inflicted for the satisfaction of appetite or of possession, and the overcoming by force

MODERN BULLET WOUNDS

UNDER many conditions, when the highspeed, smaller-caliber bullet used in modern rifles strikes a man, it makes an exceedingly small puncture, and passes through both bone and tissue alike, with trifling injury.

Although the man is incapacitated for the time being, he suffers no permanent injury. It is what was aimed at when the small-caliber rifle was adopted. Unfortunately, the bullet does not always act in this way, for the so-called "Spitz" bullet, which has been introduced in Germany and adopted by several other countries, behaves in an uncertain manner. Being quite short and conical and with a gradual taper, the center of gravity is thrown back near the base. Consequently, it is very liable to be disturbed in its flight, when it turns sideways. Instead of making the small, clean-cut perforation expected, it tears its way through the tissues, making a terribly lacerated wound very similar to that which would be produced by a dum-dum.

Another kind of wound which is not infrequently the one that appears to have been made by an explosive bullet, but is only another effect of the high-velocity bullet, which is well known, but probably not thoroughly understood. One explanation is that by its tremendously rapid translation both through the gun barrel and the air the bullet is set in vibration and the effects it will have upon the tissue of the human living body will be relative to the capability or incapacity of the tissues to take up and transmit the vibration or wave motion.

JUST WHERE WE STAND

Place in Europe would find us in an ideally sound position. A MERCHANT who is not courted by bankruptcy makes his necessary borrowing on his present assets and not on the business he expects to do next year. It is all very well to stimulate interest in a possible increase of foreign trade, but to the war in Europe. We have to remember that some of our best customers are becoming rapidly impoverished and that their customers, in South America and elsewhere, are also feeling the strain.

	1914, Bu.	1913, Bu.
Crop.....
Wheat.....
Oats.....
Barley.....
Potatoes.....
Sweet potatoes.....
Cotton (bales).....

Wells Street Journal.