

THE DEADLY EFFECT OF SHRAPNEL.



A JAPANESE BATTERY, SUPPORTED BY INFANTRY, ADVANCING UNDER A HAIL OF RUSSIAN FIRE.

The deadly effect of shrapnel in the present war in the East has often been referred to in dispatches from the front and from the accompanying illustration, taken from the London Graphic, a good idea may be had of its destructiveness. The picture represents the advance of a Japanese battery near Tashichao. The battery was quietly advancing the valley, when suddenly there was the thunder of guns. White puffs of smoke could be seen on the hillside, coming from the Russian guns that were screened. The death-laden shells exploded, carrying hundreds of bullets and splinters into the midst of the advancing force. Whenever the little white shrapnel clouds were seen across the valley, there was havoc wrought. The greedy shrapnel seemed to seek out even those who thought they were under cover and to waylay those who ran for shelter. The shrapnel used by the Japanese is even more deadly than that of the Russians, owing to the superior powder used. The Japanese shells on exploding are broken into many hundreds of fragments, each fragment a possible missile of death.

VISION OF THE OLD HOME.

To one forespent with stress of trade
And schemes of gain in city marts
There comes a breath of country hay
Wafted from passing carts.

Fades the long line of brick and stone,
The street's rude tumult dies away,
From money-getting for a space
His soul cries holiday.

And with him down the orchard path,
Past springhouse and the pasture wall,
Her spirit walks who taught her child
Of the love that is o'er all.

The vision vanishes and straight
The street's rude tumult in his ears;
But in his heart a heavenly strain,
And in his eyes sweet tears.
—Harper's.

A SUBTLE SPECULATION.

CHIFFON CARROL looked carefully about the room—nothing had been forgotten. Closing her satchel, she turned to leave, when the sound of muffled sobbing came to her ears. She listened intently, then impulsively crossed the wide hall, and rapped at the opposite door. In answer to a low "come," she entered, and was surprised to find, on a couch before the dozing fire, the woman who, six months before, had become her father's wife. From the first Chiffon had been determined not to like her, but the older woman's gentleness and sweetness of disposition were beginning to make an impression.

"I am not dressing for dinner tonight, Jane. I shall not go down; I am too sad and my head aches," came in muffled tones from the pillows.

Deft fingers loosened the heavy masses of hair, and a gentle, penetrating massage followed. The surprised sufferer raised her eyes, catching her breath with a little half-sob as she saw it was not her maid, but the one whose love she despaired of gaining.

"This is very sweet of you, Rose, dear," she said gently.

"Indeed, I want to make you more comfortable," answered a soothing voice. "I cannot bear that any one should suffer. Why are you so miserable, Mrs. Carrol? Is your son worse to-day?"

"Mrs. Carrol! Is that the only name you can find in your heart to call me, dear? I wonder if you will ever call me mother? I have always longed for a daughter; your own dear mother could be no more tender than I would be if you would only open your heart to me."

"I really care for you," answered the girl, kissing her warmly. "Won't you call me Chiffon? Those I love call me by that name."

"Such a dainty pet name! I have not dared to use it. Do you think, Chiffon, that your father's heart is not big enough for us both? I would not take one iota of his love from you."

The proud head was gently lowered as Chiffon's arm crept around the other's neck, and as their tears mingled the barrier was gone forever.

"Mother, why do you not bring your boy here? Surely your home should be his. Let him have my rooms, they are the sunniest. I shall be gone a month; by that time he may be able to move to the suite above. How long is it since he was injured?"

"He has been in the hospital nine months, his horse fell on him and his spine was hurt. The surgeons promise a complete cure, but the waiting is so tedious, and the suspense almost unbearable."

"Will you accept my offer?" asked Chiffon. "My visit will be happier if you do."

"I gladly accept, dear. Philip never would have come without your invitation."

"What a sensitive boy!" exclaimed Chiffon. "Give him my warmest sympathy and tell him I feel that we shall be warm friends. I will help to amuse him when I come back; does he care to be read to?"

"He is very fond of company," answered his mother, "but is very sensitive about the crutches he is obliged to use."

Chiffon had anticipated no end of a good time. Although she was entertained continually her heart yearned for home, and at the end of three weeks she surprised them by returning unannounced.

"How is our invalid?" was her first question, after affectionately greeting her father and mother.

"Improving every day," answered her mother; "you must see him after dinner. He is anxious to thank you, although he said it would be rank presumption to accept the use of your rooms, and occupies those over yours."

"What an unusually thoughtful boy!" laughed Chiffon.

Immediately after dinner she ran over the stairs to the invalid's apartments, armed with two of Henty's newest books for boys, which she had brought home from the city; also, a bound volume of St. Nicholas Magazine. As she entered the room, in answer to a deep "come in," a scarlet flame rushed from the proud chin, losing itself in the fluffy pompadour.

For the first time since she could remember, Chiffon Carrol was not equal to the emergency, and stood staring blankly into the eyes of a young man of twenty-six years, who arose to meet her. She had expected to find herself in the presence of a fourteen-year-old boy.

"Where are your crutches?" she gasped.

"Thrown away forever, I hope. Aren't you going to congratulate me and tell me that you are glad?"

"But you are so tall and so old," she faltered.

"A veritable Methusalem! A modern Goliath!" he responded smilingly.

"I thought to find a little boy," she hesitated.

"And are you very sorry?"

"Not exactly sorry, but awfully embarrassed and ashamed," she laughed; "and I had no reason in the world for my supposition excepting that your mother is so young and beautiful."

"The mater is all of that," he acquiesced tenderly. "I believe she married at seventeen."

"I have brought you some solid mental food," said Chiffon, demurely, handing him the books. "If we had been properly introduced I might offer to assist you to assimilate them."

Philip Calvert threw back his handsome head, and laughed aloud for the first time since his accident.

"How unchivalrous! But perhaps you prefer muggins, or old maids," she continued, taking a pack of cards from the table and looking at him with dancing eyes. "Why, you are standing! and yesterday was the first time that you had stood alone."

"By Jove, I had forgotten!" he exclaimed.

"Lie down immediately, and I will skim through the paper if you like. What shall it be—the stock market first?"

"If you please," he answered, not caring a rap what she read, as long as he could watch the soft flush on her cheeks come and go, and meet her eyes occasionally.

Mrs. Carrol was much surprised to find them thus cozily ensconced. She had wondered at Chiffon's disappearance and was feeling a trifle hurt that she had not asked to visit the invalid.

Philip maintained a prudent silence, while Chiffon, with evident embarrassment, explained the situation.

"Is it all right that I should read, a little, to Mr. Calvert?"

"It is evidently all right," answered Mrs. Carrol, looking understandingly into Philip's animated face. "The stock market has acted as a tonic."

Chiffon was an excellent horsewoman, and it was not long before she was allowed to drive Philip out.

The young man chafed under his affliction. Naturally an athlete, he longed for activity. One day still another famous surgeon was summoned in consultation.

That evening when Chiffon made her daily visit she found a morose listener. At last Philip took the paper gently from her saying:

"It's no use, Chiffon. I have not heard one word, I can't listen to-night. I want to talk to you. I can walk very well now, and the gruff old fellow who was here to-day promises that German baths will effect a permanent and speedy cure. Still, I won't go abroad alone."

"Such a thing would be very indiscreet at least. I fancy your mother would go with you," she answered.

"I should not think of allowing her to leave her new-found happiness." Then, wistfully, "I thought, perhaps, that some one whose sweetness and adorable womanly inconsistencies have warmed my heart into new life, some one whose precious encouragement in hours of despair has been unspeakable consolation, comforting me and giving hope when I had grown morbid and felt myself a being apart—I thought, Chiffon, that this dear girl might marry me and take in the continent as a wedding journey." Then, continuing with nervous rapidity, "I knew if I saw her, day after day, she would become the life of my life. But how was a poor cripple to run away from his fate even if he was so inclined? Sometimes she whom I love is the embodiment of tenderness; at other times, I feel that her heart is adamant."

His forlornness appealed to her. She reddened at memories of her own duplicity, little elusive acts that went to hide her love for him from his watchful eyes. Then after a silence, she demurely—

"Why speculate any longer, Philip? Why not ask her? I assure you that she loves you, dear."—Waverley Magazine.

Ambiguous.

"And so you like Miss Learned, Louise?"

"Yes, indeed," replied the enthusiastic Louise, who has just returned from an autograph-hunting expedition, "and you can't tell by talking to her that she has a bit of sense, auntie."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

A girl thinks she's a first-class cook if she can make fudge.

AGRICULTURAL



In planting out an orchard this fall do not plant out more than can be matured and cared for.

The dairy cow should always be fed either ground or soft feed and never be given whole grains.

A sheep adapted to every section and to every breeder's surroundings cannot be grown in the same animal.

The best method of improving the soil is not to plow too great a proportion nor pasture too closely.

A little neglect of the stock will soon destroy their best qualities and give them the appearance of scrubs.

Comfort is a prime condition of animal growth, and this can be secured only by comfortable surroundings.

Light hay crops are often the result of allowing the meadows to be pastured down too closely at this time.

Bees serve as active agents in the fertilization of plants and are not destructive in the smallest degree.

Feeding Milk to Poultry.

Farmers who have more or less skim milk and a generous supply of sour milk can feed both profitably to laying hens during the winter. Milk should be given as other things are fed, with a view to having as much variety as possible. While the fowls rarely tire of the milk, it generally brings the best results if the preparation of it is somewhat varied. For example: When the weather is cold, give the birds a lot of warm milk in the morning, putting it in a trough.

The next night feed them a warm mash, but mix the bran with milk instead of water. This is an excellent way to use the sour milk or milk that is too thick to feed alone. Another time cook a lot of small potatoes, chop them fine and mix with the sour milk, then feed warm—creamed potatoes in a way. One has no idea how laying hens enjoy such variety and what a decided difference it makes in the egg production.

Cheap Step Ladder.

The illustration shows a cheap, handy stepladder. It need cost but very little. It is just 5 feet high and is most convenient in the house during cleaning time and out of doors at all times. During the fruit picking season it is almost indispensable. The ladder proper is made of 1x6 boards with the steps of the same material. The two opposite legs are 2x2, properly braced. The board on the top should be of good inch boards with at least two cleats underneath.



HANDY LADDER.

Three Acres and a Cow.

The term "three acres and a cow," which was at one time quite prominent in English farm discussions, was originally suggested as a remedy for the lack of employment among mechanics and laborers. The idea was that if each workman could secure possession of a small place, he would become, in a measure, independent during a period of hard times. The actual suggestion was three and one-quarter acres, the one-fourth-acre to be devoted to an orchard in which the cow could graze occasionally. The rest of the land he desired to devote as follows: Potatoes, one-half acre; turnips, one-fourth acre; winter vetch, one-half acre; spring vetch, one-fourth acre; barley, wheat or oats, three-fourths acre; clover and grass, three-fourths acre. He estimated that the product of this land would be worth about \$100, and would keep the occupier above actual want.

Making Most of Costly Seed Potatoes.

The high cost of some of the fancy varieties of seed potatoes in England has caused some attention to be devoted to getting the most from a given amount of seed. By taking out each eye separately and starting in pots, afterwards transplanting to the field, it is found not difficult with careful management to get 100 pounds of potatoes from each pound of seed, and each eye of the potato generally contains two to four shoots, and it is possible after the eye has sprouted to separate the shoots, and by careful handling to produce a plant from each.

Poultry Notes.

A good egg will sink in water. With the dust bath the hen cleans her body.

Sitting hens should not be fed while on the nest.

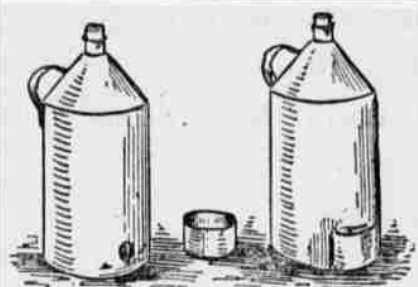
Growing chicks should be protected from the sun.

The nest must occasionally be renewed and kept clean.

Lime is a purifier and should be used often as a wash to coops, perches and nest boxes.

Home-Made Water Fountain.

Here is a water fountain that will answer the purpose as well as would one purchased for a dollar. Cut out a round hole in the lower part of an old tin can; now cut exactly in two parts an empty can such as chipped beef is put up in, an empty tomato can can be cut down to the right height, also if the meat can is not at hand. With the home soldering outfit, solder the half can over the opening in the can, as shown in the last part of the cut. Select a cork that will fit the top air-tight. If it doesn't make a tight joint, wrap a bit of wet cloth



WATER FOUNTAIN FOR POULTRY.

about the cork. When filled, the fountain will let the water down into the drinking cup as fast as the fowls or chickens drink it and there will be no fouling of the water.

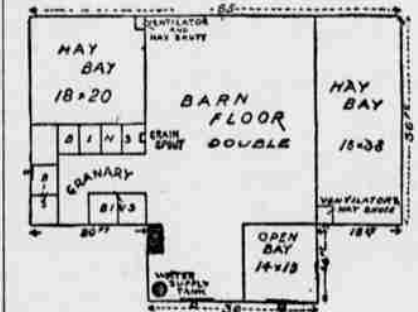
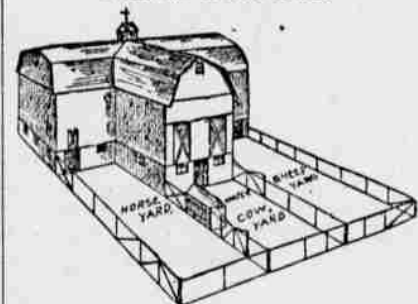
Big-Boned Steers Not Best.

There was a time, though it was many years ago, when the big-boned steer that weighed 1,800 to 2,000 pounds, was looked for by the buyers of beef, but now the animal that is sought by the butchers is one that weighs from 1,200 to 1,500 pounds.

We have long since found out that the cheapest meat is made on young animals, and the money thus invested is soonest ready to be turned over. Not only is the money tied up longest in old animals, but the cost of producing meat on them is so great that our best beef feeders are no longer attempting to do that. The method now is to keep the animals growing right along from birth to the period when they weigh what the market demands.

Steers are now ready for the market at 2 years old or under. If all the animals shipped to the stock yards were of this kind there would not be much complaint about poor returns in stock breeding and beef-making. A good many farmers are still trying to make profitable beef on old steers. But the young steer is the only animal that gives us any promise of a profit.—Exchange.

Plan for Farm Barn.



General Farm Notes.

Be systematic in the training of young horses.

The horse that contracts bad habits readily is generally one that can be taught the most useful traits with the least trouble.

Sheep to thrive well require frequent change of food.

Marketing the products in the best possible condition is where the profits are made.

A yard or lawn always looks barren without some choice ornamental trees or shrubs.

The wisest course is to convert cheap grain into meat before shipping it to market.

A furrow plowed through a wet place in the wheat field will often save an acre of wheat.