

THE WORLD'S ARMIES.

What the Various Countries Could Put In the Field.

The United States can call upon a greater number of trained soldiers than any other country in the world. Although the standing army numbers only 27,000 men, each state has to support its own militia, and should it become necessary as a last resource upward of 7,500,000 men could assist in maintaining the independence of the country.

To defend the coast there would be a navy of some 70 ships, with 10,000 men.

Of the European armies the biggest is that of France. The number of men in the active army and its reserves is 2,350,000. It is not likely, however, that under any conceivable circumstances more than 2,500,000 men could be called out. The navy, with 451 ships, also has a reserve of 114,000 men, of whom about 25,500 are serving at the present time with the fleet.

Next in point of numbers on a war footing comes Germany. The peace strength of the standing army is about 550,000. There has been no late return of the war strength, but in the last extremity Germany would have 2,700,000 men, about 3,000,000 trained men, while 22,000 men could man the two hundred and twenty odd vessels constituting the navy. The third great power is Russia. The total peace footing of this country is 900,000 and the war footing 2,600,000. The navy consists of 150 ships manned by 32,000 men.

Italy can boast of an army numbering 3,030,000, of which nearly 250,000 are under arms, 600,000 are on unlimited leave, 530,000 are mobile militia and 1,650,000 are territorial militia. The navy comprises 21,500 men and 230 ships.

From a military point of view, Great Britain ill compares with her European neighbors. The total of all branches of the service amounts to only 715,683, and of these only 665,164 are classified as effective. The regular force at home and in the colonies numbers only 147,105, the army reserve is 80,100, the militia 14,104, the yeomanry 11,678 and the volunteers 263,524. The British navy therefore should at all times be a remarkably strong one.

Austria-Hungary has a war footing of 1,750,000, but should the necessity arise over 4,000,000 men would have to take arms in defense of their country. The navy has a total of some 8,500 men to man the 110 ships. The permanent army of Spain numbers 116,000, which could be increased in time of war to 1,085,000; 25,000 men could man the 108 vessels comprising the navy.

The army of Switzerland is divided as follows: The elite, 131,500; the Landwehr, 81,500; the Landsturm, 273,200.

Sweden has 38,846 men and 1,000 reserves, with a navy of 53 ships, with 20,000 men, and Norway an army of 39,000, although the number of troops actually under arms never exceeds, even in war, 1,800 men without the consent of the storting. The navy of 31 ships is manned by only 535 men, although some 323,000 men could be called upon to serve.

China could bring 980,000 men on the field and Japan 271,000.

Of the smaller powers there are Rumania, with a permanent army of 51,000 men and a territorial army numbering 81,900; Portugal, with a war strength of 150,000; Persia with 24,500; Serbia, with 210,000; Netherlands, with 69,000 and a navy of 133 ships and 2,800 men; Belgium, with a strength of 155,800 men and a garrison of nearly 45,000, and Denmark, with a war strength of 60,000 men and an extra reserve of 16,500, only called out in extreme emergencies.

The smaller nations of the world all have their means of defense, and the Congo Independent State, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Bolivia, Argentina, the Argentine Republic, Liberia, Nicaragua, the Orange Free State and the South African Republic among them could number something like 1,500,000 men.—London Mail.

ABSID POPULAR BELIEFS.

Some Fallacies Shown Up by an Iconoclastic Medical Man.

"Nine out of ten people believe," said a surgeon to the writer, "that the eye can be taken out for repairs, just like the works of a watch, and again replaced in the socket precisely as it was before. A moment's reflection ought to show any one how impossible this would be. As a matter of fact, the eye is held in place by no fewer than six taut muscles, and in order to turn it out of the socket at least four of these would have to be cut through. Besides, it is connected with the brain by a thick nerve which cannot be stretched, and it is also connected with the inside of the skull by blood vessels, and if these were cut they could never be reunitied. Perhaps a time will come when a dead man can be restored to life, but you may feel perfectly sure that the removal and restoration of the eye is a surgical feat that will never be performed."

"Another extraordinary popular belief is that respecting the nature of a common cold. You will hear the most intelligent men saying that it is due to an excess of cold inside your body, and they will advise you to use a mustard plaster 'to draw out the cold.' In reality the cold is simply an excess of heat inside, and the mustard plaster is intended to draw out the heat. What happens when you get a cold is that the cooling of the outside of the body squeezes the blood vessels and forces a lot more blood into the lungs than can be accommodated. They become regularly flooded and gorged, and the result is really a fever, though we call it a cold."

"It seems a small thing to make a mistake about the value of tea to a sick man, but I can assure you that hundreds of lives have been lost through the popular error that tea is a nourishing food. It is nothing more than water in which the pleasant and stimulating salts of the beef are dissolved and has the same effect as a mixture of whisky and China tea. But it has scarcely

a particle of nutriment, and both doctors and public have starved to death more people than I'd like to state through believing that it has."

"Very similar is the belief that an egg is as good as a pound of meat."

If you feed yourself on eggs according to this absurd theory, you will simply shrivel up into skin and bone.

The real value of an egg is its weight in good beef, so that it would take eight eggs of the average size to supply the place of a pound of meat.

"Then there is the universal falacy about the liver. I dare say that a million of money is spent every year on the livers of Great Britain, and about £900,000 of that sum does harm instead of good. The liver is subject to about 100 diseases, and the cure for any one of these may intensify any other of the 99. To take one case as an example, the liver may be making too much bile, or it may be making too little. Obviously the remedy for one of these disorders would make the other worse than ever. So that when a person recommends something as being 'good for the liver' just think that it maybe good for his liver, but not for yours."

"Women are far worse than men in their beliefs about the body and its ailments. I am quite sure that out of every 100 children who die under 1 year old 50 are actually killed through the mothers' belief that food is not nourishing unless it is solid. They don't understand that milk has an immense amount of solid matter dissolved in it, as sugar is dissolved in water, and so they give the unfortunate children corn flour and bread, which they can no more digest than they could digest iron nails. The result is a short life of misery and then death, while those of us who manage to survive are made martyrs to dyspepsia all our days."

"Many beliefs are merely absurd without being dangerous. Hair, for instance, is composed of almost the same material as the finger nail, and it is perfectly dead. Cutting it off cannot possibly make it grow, although it does prevent the hair from splitting up, nor can the hair become white in a night any more than a wig. When novelists, too, by the way describe a person's hair as standing on end, they speak of a phenomenon that is perfectly impossible. Many of the lower animals have little muscles attached to the hairs by which they can erect them, but human beings have no such muscles, nor any other means of making the hair stand on end except their hands or a comb and brush."—Exchange.

PARIS FIREMANS AT WORK.

Their Go to the Fire Deliberately, but Are Active When There.

The strength of the French buildings, the unflammable nature of their partitions, their hard wood floors and the quaintness of their furnishings, to say nothing of the comparatively slight use of fire for household purposes, have generally kept Paris quite free from catastrophes due to fires, and at the same time have left the firemen seriously handicapped when it is a question of dealing with it obtrusiveness.

There is another kind of gardening, however, which has been called specimen gardening, and which has many attractions to genuine lovers of plants. To such persons a garden exists for its plants rather than for the plants for the garden. It is not a landscape picture done.

It is not necessary that a decorative group should be in any sense natural, and plants with foliage of strong color or those that can be trained into peculiar shapes or which have an unusual habit are often the most valuable in such places.

The short and slight young may no longer sway. He was packed like a sardine in a box. And yet he made one fierce clutch with his idle hand.

Neighbors scowled, but the strugger was imperturbable. He knocked off a derby hat, he stepped on corns,

he reclined for a moment on the voluptuous breast of an elderly and spectacled clergyman. He finally triumphed, and holding a shabby book in air he began to read, and he began to smile a peaceful smile. He read with an absorption that irritated the book was "Zimmermann on Solitude,"—Boston Journal.

For decorative purposes plants and flowers may be grouped into arrangements which kindly admiration on account of their symmetry of form and richness of color. This is the presentation of beauty for its own sake. It appeals to the aesthetic sense alone and not to the imagination, and through it to our higher nature as a landscape picture does.

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