

THE LABEL RIFLE.

Descriptive Account of the New Arm of the French Army.

The Label rifle, as the new arm is called, was invented by Lieutenant-Colonel Label, principal of the artillery school at Chalons. Its remarkable qualities are lightness, long range and extraordinary penetrating power. According to the scientific researches of the mathematician, Prof. Heller, it was supposed that the absolutely perfect army rifle should be a weapon with a caliber of precisely seven millimeters. The Label rifle has not so small a caliber, but offers the nearest approach to it yet made—viz.: eight millimeters. With this caliber the advantages are: a lighter cartridge; a greater penetrating power, and a much less liability of the missile to be deviated from its course by a strong wind.

The ball is so covered with steel and brass, as to enable it to preserve its form and to follow precisely the grooves of the barrel. Its initial velocity is exactly 1000 meters per second greater than that of the Gras rifle, which had an initial velocity of 450 meters, while the Label boasts a velocity of 840 meters. It revolves upon itself 5,000 times per second—always traveling point first. At a distance of 1,800 meters its fire is as fatal as within a lesser distance; and as the line of the projectile is almost perfectly straight, extraordinary hits can be made at immense ranges. To obviate the shock of recoil consequent upon so prodigious an expelling force, a special powder has been invented by Colonel Brugere, which detonates progressively without smoke and with comparatively little noise. The shooter feels the weapon push—does not feel a sudden and painful jar. Three wooden shields placed at about twenty-five yards apart were easily pierced in a straight line by one rifle-shot—the ball traveling on five hundred meters further without changing its course to strike the outlying target aimed at precisely in the center. The movable breech piece is shorter than in the Gras rifle, but offers a greater resistance and the recoil follows the axis of the weapon.

On finding themselves in possession of so extraordinary an arm, it was for some time a question with the military authorities whether or not to adopt it in its simplest form, as the best of single-shot breech loaders. But as Austria is adopting the Mannlicher repeater, Italy the Vitali repeater, Germany the Mauser magazine gun, it seemed necessary to make the Label a repeater also; as troops armed with a single shot rifle only, however good, would easily become demoralized by the mere conviction that they were face to face with enemies armed with magazine guns.—*English Paper.*

KEEPING ENGAGEMENTS.

A Few Sensible Comments on the Grace of Being on Time.

The gross offenses committed against the acknowledged laws of good society by those who would resent with the deepest indignation the implication of ever offending simply proves that the gods withhold one of the educating forces when the gift "to see well's" as it were, is withheld.

A course of lectures is being delivered Saturday mornings at an Eastern college. Through the kindness of the lecturers, professors and tutors of the college the lectures are free. The hour for the lecture, as prominently announced, is the subject, 11:00. Promptly at that hour the lecturer on a recent morning began. For twenty minutes after that time the stragglers came in, singly or by twos or threes. The hall is small, and after the first late comers had filled the few vacant seats camp chairs were carried through the aisles. The lecturer had a strong voice, but even it was unequal to the task of drowning the footsteps of half a dozen people, the rustle of garments, and the necessary confusion attending the seating of these people. Courtesy demanded that these guests should have been in their places at the time designated by their attendants. Certainly there can be no justification for their tardiness. Closed doors should greet people who do not know the value of time; they certainly can not gain enough to compensate those who give time and talents to enrich their minds, if they can not be on time to meet the lecturer's first words.

Punctuality is a grace of character almost as far-reaching in its influence as truth. He who steals my purse steals trash, but he who steals my time robs me of that which I can never regain, nor any human being be enriched by its loss.

The laggards are the impediments of life. Too much stress can not be laid on the obligation of keeping engagements on time. And in public connection but the rarest occurrences would excuse the disturbing of an audience by entering the room after the specified hour. It is an evidence of thoughtlessness that does not speak well for character, or of ill-breeding that shows lack in nature and training.—*Christian Union.*

FASHIONS IN FURNITURE.

They Change with as Much Frequency as the Styles in Hats and Bonnets.

It is probable that if it were as easy to discard an old suit of furniture and procure a new one, as it is for those who have the means to order a new dress, our houses would never wear a homelike or familiar look, for no sooner would we become acquainted with the vagaries of the chairs, bureaus and other articles of furniture, and each angle and protuberance be so well known that they could be avoided in the dark, than we would have to accustom ourselves to a new arrangement and map out a new chart. As it is, a suit of furniture which five or six years ago held a leading position in fashionable circles, is to-day looked upon as out of date. It requires about five years for the accomplishment of a complete evolution in style. This, perhaps, is a very judicious arrangement for the young couple that have their home newly furnished when they set out together may have their home refurbished in the latest style when the fifth anniversary, known as the wooden wedding, is celebrated. What will they do when the tenth anniversary arrives? By that time they should have money enough to refurbish their home if they wish to do so, or save enough to care nothing for the rule of fashion. Five years ago about the only wood used in the manufacture of furniture was black walnut. Occasionally a bedroom suit in ash or white wood was discovered, but such an object attracted as much attention as the wearer of an India helmet would in a walk down Broadway. To-day black walnut still holds a place in society, but it has been outranked by mahogany, oak and cherry. Bedroom suits made of dark cross-grained mahogany are the chief attraction in furniture salerooms to-day, and articles made of this wood command a higher price than the same designs made up in other fashionable woods. There are many purchasers, however, who prefer the honest, sturdy-looking oak, or the bright and warm looking cherry.

Mahogany was the most fashionable of all woods about a half century ago, and no doubt there are stowed away in cellars or attics, or still doing service in the second or third generation, many a bedstead, bureau or parlor suit which is just sufficiently antique to meet the prevailing demand. Mahogany will take a high polish and will wear "forever" as the dealer says, and is very tough. We know of one suit of furniture made of this wood which has successfully withstood the wear and tear of two generations of boys and has not as many scars to-day as the boys themselves. Oak furniture does not take as brilliant a polish as mahogany, black walnut or cherry, but it has a business like look and is preferred by many because it has a more genuine antique appearance. This wood is but little used in the manufacture of bedroom suits, but for dinner chairs, desks, hat-trunks and chiffoniers it is preferred. There are marked shades in oak and in the manufacture of desks especially a very pretty effect is produced by the judicious combination of these shades. Cherry is used for almost every purpose and is selected generally in the manufacture of Sleepy Hollow and other more or less comfortable working chairs and easy chairs.—*N. Y. Mail and Express.*

HAWAIIAN LEPROSIES.

Sugar-King Spreckels Gives Some Facts About the Horrible Disease.

Clara Spreckels, the man who is supposed to own the Hawaiian Islands among other little things, is here, and is one of the most noted men in town. Spreckels is a stout man, with white hair and beard. His most striking feature is his eyes, and such eyes they are. They are gray and blue at times, and seem to look right through you. He speaks with a slight German accent and uses gestures freely to emphasize his remarks. He said to the correspondent: "I am at a loss to understand the apathy of the people of the United States towards the Hawaiian Islands. Naturally in the course of time they would become a part of the domain of this country, and they will, too, if we would only take some interest in the great properties owned by Americans there. It is the most glorious climate in the world. The temperature never varies more than eight degrees and the soil will grow everything that is known to the earth. The people are splendid specimens and of excellent disposition."

"How about leprosy?"

"I can tell you as much about leprosy as any other man, but really I do not pretend to understand it. The lepers are banished to an island, from whence they are never allowed to return. No body has ever been able to learn how leprosy originated or how it can be cured. It appears in the most curious ways, and leaves men and women uncounted who have suffered the greatest exposure. The most striking instance of this fact is the case of the present Queen of Hawaii. The King is her second husband. Her first husband was a leper, and her two children by him both died by the horrible disease, and yet she is a perfectly healthy woman. Nobody knows how leprosy is communicated. The most eminent authorities who have looked into the subject contend that it is not contagious. Several years ago a white man was condemned to death for a murder which he had committed. The authorities allowed him to choose between being executed or passing into the hands of a noted German physician for experimental purposes. The criminal cheerfully chose the latter. He was inoculated time and time again with leprosy, but the disease had no effect upon him, and to-day he is as healthy a man as there is on the islands. Leprosy does not often attack the white race, far out of the thousands of cases there are to-day only about a half dozen Caucasians. These are facts beyond dispute. In my judgment England will take some very aggressive measures to obtain possession of the islands before many years. The native race is rapidly dying out, and it is a question of a very short time before the country will pass under the control of a foreign power."—*Washington Cor.*

TRUBLE AHEAD.

When the appetite fails and the sleep grows restless and unrefreshing, there is trouble ahead. The digestive organs, when healthy, crave food, the nervous system, when vigorous and tranquil, gives its possessor no uneasiness at night. A tonic, to be effective, should not be a mere appetizer, nor are the nerves to be strengthened and soothed by the unaided action of a sedative or narcotic. What is required is a medicine which invigorates the stomach, and promotes assimilation of food by the system by which which the nervous system, as well as other parts of the physical organism, are strengthened. There are the effects of Hostetter's Stomach Bitter, a medicine whose reputation is founded firmly in public confidence and whose efficacy is commended for its tonic, anti-bilious and other properties. It is used with the best results in cases of indigestion, rheumatism, kidney and uterine weakness and other maladies.

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