

JAPANESE CADETS.

Military School Exercises Include Many of Hand Conflicts.

In the Japanese military school, where I saw a Spartan system of education, the exercises of the cadets with skins, rifles and broadswords were not approached by anything of the kind that I had witnessed in Europe. It was fighting of the fiercest character.

At the end of the struggle there was a hand to hand combat, which lasted until the victors stood triumphant over the bodies of the vanquished and tore off their masks.

In these exercises, which were very severe, the cadets struck one another fiercely and with wild cries, but the moment a prearranged signal was given or the fight came to an end the combatants drew themselves up in a line, and their faces assumed an expression of wooden composure.

In all the public schools prominence was given to military exercises, and the scholars took part in them with enthusiasm. Even in their walks they practiced running, dinking and sudden, unexpected attacks.

The history of Japan was everywhere made a means of strengthening the pupils' patriotism and their belief in Japan's invincibility. Particular stress was laid upon the country's successful wars, the heroes of them were extolled, and the children were taught that none of Japan's military enterprises had failed.—McClure's Magazine.

A WARSHIP'S RAM.

The Huge Steel Beak Is Capable of Inflicting Terrible Injury.

A modern ram is nothing more than a huge steel beak, or snout, which is fitted to the prow of the battleship for the purpose of destroying an enemy's ship in time of war by the force of collision. Indeed, should a vessel succeed in driving her ram against another warship the blow, if delivered at full speed, would be sufficient to crush in the ship's side and sink her immediately.

A battleship's ram weighs about forty tons and is cast all in one piece. It is of solid steel and capable of striking a tremendous blow. Shell proof a man-of-war may be made, but the skill of the naval architect is unequal to the task of designing a ship that can resist the ram.

Great care must be exercised in fixing such a heavy piece of steel. The method generally adopted is as follows: The ram is suspended from a strong derrick, the bottom end of which is attached to the extreme end of the vessel's keel plates. The gap between the ram and the uncompleted part of hull is walled tight compartments. The weapon is so fixed that it strikes just below the armored belt where resistance is weakest, while it is so shaped that the ramming vessel can by reversing her engines easily disengage herself from the ship she has struck.—Philadelphia Record.

The Word "Person."

General Benjamin F. Butler, I it said, once asserted that a woman was not a "person," and a London suffragette insists that the word "person" in its legal sense includes woman. The word has had an interesting history signifying by etymology something to make a sound through, the Latin "persona" began by meaning an actor's mask with its mouthpiece. Then it meant the character represented by the player—"dramatis personae." Then it came to mean the part or character one sustains in real life, and so the "persona ecclesiae," the man who represented the church, became known as a "person" in a special sense and was eventually spelled as "parson." On the other hand, "person" faded away to mean just anybody. And so though a woman naturally resents being referred to as a "person" in ordinary talk, many women no less naturally desire to count as "persons" in the eye of the franchise law.—Chicago News.

Butler's Generosity.

So many examples of episcopal cupidity have been cited of late that the average man may be excused for believing the bishop of a century or so ago to have been an incarnation of greed. But against the Luxmoires, the Walmatons and the Porteuces may be set the noble Butler, whose "Anglo-Sax" is still used as a text book for clerical seminarians. Butler kept open house at Durham, where he dispensed hospitality with a lavish hand. On one occasion a man called at the palace requesting a subscription for some charitable object. "How much money is there in the house?" asked Butler of his secretary. The secretary after investigation replied that there was \$200. "Give it to him, then," replied the philosopher bishop, "for it is a shame that a bishop should have so much."—London Chronicle.

His Occupation.

"A big, heavy fellow in answer to a question to a justice's court as to what he did for a living said: "I'm a young man in the spring I catches up young mockin' birds, in the summer I mostly sells rattlesnake but in the winter I sometimes has to chop wood."—Atlanta Constitution.

Belarging the Limit.

"You're very foolish, Alfred. That cigar and cigar, and you know the limit, but you to one a day." "You're dear, but I've consulted two doctors, and each has allowed me to smoke a cigar a day; total, three?"—London Chronicle.

Every person has two educations—

one which he receives from others and one more important, which he gives himself.—Gibben.

CITY OF THE INSANE.

Happy and Honored "Guests" of the Inhabitants of Gheel.

One of the most remarkable places in Europe, of which no tourist on pleasure bent ever takes notice, says a writer in a Berlin paper, is the "City of the Insane," by which name Gheel, near Antwerp, has been known for generations. About 1,500 men and women afflicted with insanity in all its forms live there and have a happy being as the "guests" of the inhabitants, who know by experience how to treat the unfortunate ones. In the streets, in the places of amusement, the cafes and workshops these patients may be found, and nowhere is there the remotest suggestion of restraint apparent. The board ranges from 240 to 2,400 marks a year, and no matter how small the amount may be, the patient is always the favored member of the family. He has the first right to the most comfortable chair, and the head of the table belongs to him. He receives the most attention, and this he learns to appreciate and to endeavor to maintain by living down his illness. Even the children know how to treat the demented people. The dangerous ones are sent to another settlement and to institutions. It is wonderful how considerate, careful and kind the simple people are toward their charges, and a peep into the community would probably terrify physicians who had never heard of and could not appreciate the good which is being done in this "City of the Insane."

A RACE ON ICE.

The Skates That Got Away and Those That Were Recovered.

Thackeray once asked one of the men who let out skates on the Serpentine whether he had ever lost a pair through the omission to exact a deposit, and he replied that he had never done so, except on one occasion, when the circumstances made it almost pardonable.

A well dressed young fellow was having his second skate fastened on when he suddenly broke away from the man's hands and dashed to the ice. The next instant a thickset, powerful man was clamoring for another pair.

He was a detective in pursuit of his prey, and a very animating sight it was to watch the chase. He was, as he had boasted, a first rate skater, and it became presently obvious that he was running down his man.

Then the young fellow determined to run a desperate risk of liberty. The ice, as usual, under the bridge was marked "Dangerous," and he made for it at headlong speed. The ice bent beneath his weight, but he got safely through.

The sheriff's officer followed with equal pluck, but, being a heavier man, broke through and was drowned.

"His skates," said the narrator of the incident, "I got back after the inquest, but those the young gentleman had on I never saw again."—London Telegraph.

The Salt Sea Legend.

There is a legend in the Norse scalds which explains why the sea is salt. The "bountiful Frodi," whose mythical reign was a golden age indeed, possessed a quern, or hand mill, which ground out gold and peace, but which would grind out stores of anything desired by its owner. Two giant maidens, ruled over by Frodi, were the grinders. In an evil day a sea rover came upon the scene, slew Frodi and carried off the quern and the two giant maidens who worked it. When the sea rover's vessel was right out at sea he ordered the maidens to grind salt. At midnight they asked if they had not ground enough. The sea rover, angry at being awakened from his sleep, commanded them to grind until morning. Now, the giant maidens naturally enough worked very quickly, so as they went on grinding the load of salt grew so heavy that it sank the ship, and now the sea will continue salt forever.

Looked Too Far.

There was an English farmer, a Somersetshire man, who once owned a telescope. The old man remarked to a friend at a local race meeting that the gentry nowadays had glasses for both eyes and added that he "had had one once for one eye, a right good one it was, but now it was no use at all, not to nobody."

"Why not?" asked the friend. "Well," he said, "it were a good one. I could see miles w' en. I could see plain the steeple of the church five miles off. But missus' son John, he borrowed an, and he tried to see the steeple of 'o'other church, ten miles off—and tried and tried and couldn't. And that strained it, and it were never of no use any more—no, not to nobody."

A Troublesome Mirror.

"Mamma," said Flossie, "this old looking glass isn't any good." "Why, what's the matter with it, dear?" asked her mother. "Every time I try to look in it," explained Flossie, "my face gets in the way."

As a Corollary.

"Are marriages made in heaven?" "As to that I can't say, but I do know this much." "What's that, Peleg?" "There's lots of courtin' done in church."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Didn't Get a Chance.

She—What did papa say when you asked him for my hand? He—Why, he couldn't say a word. "He couldn't?" "No; your mother was there!"—Yonkers Statesman.

VEST'S CAMPAIGN SPEECH.

Why a Small Boy Persisted in Hearing It Every Day.

"Senator Vest was making a buggy campaign in southeast Missouri some years ago," said a Missouri official. "His driver was a small boy, who was duly impressed with the importance of his distinguished passenger."

"At each town visited by Vest the boy hurried his team to a convenient livery barn and then raced for the courthouse, or wherever the 'speakin' was to take place, and perched himself with painful regularity on the front seat. He invariably turned his eyes on the senator and took in every word of the speech as if his very life depended on it."

"Finally the lad's continued conspicuous presence among his auditors annoyed the senator, and he kindly but firmly reminded the boy that it was not necessary for him to attend every meeting."

"I make the same speech each time. You have heard it often enough to know it by rote, so just put in your time in the future looking after the team," he admonished his youthful driver.

"Despite the senator's objection, the boy was again in the front seat the next day and the following day. This enraged Vest, and he thundered:

"Why do you persist in always occupying that front seat? Didn't I tell you I make the same speech every day? It's as old and stale to you as it is to me. Why insist on hearing it again and again?"

"I want to see what you're going to do when you fergit it," answered the boy. Vest capitulated.—St. Louis Republic.

THE ELEPHANT FLEET.

How It Is Used by the British Government in India.

Its elephant fleet is one of the strangest and most deadly departments maintained by the British government in India. It is a large fleet of coasting steamers specially built for the transport of elephants. India's population is one-fifth that of the entire globe. All these people use elephants. They use them for draft work and for tiger hunting, and in the arenas of the native states they even pit them against one another and against wild beasts. The elephant fleet transfers the animals from Dacca, the trapping and training headquarters, to the various districts whence comes the demand.

To get an elephant aboard ship is a difficult and dangerous task. The animal must wade through the surf to a stout raft, and this unknown surf, so white and tumultuous, often terrifies and maddens him. If in his fury he slaughters a mahout or two he cannot be greatly blamed. Once on the raft, his legs are tied to pegs, and the slow sail to the ship is uneventful. But now a great band must be arranged under the elephant's belly, and a crane must hoist him up some twenty or thirty feet to the deck. Here again the elephant cannot be set down as intractable if, losing his head in that unprecedented aerial journey, he murders some more mahouts. Very prosperous, albeit stained a little with mahouts' blood, the elephant fleet for many years has plied up and down the Indian coast, embarking and disembarking its heavy, unmanageable freight.—New York Press.

The Appreciation of Music.

If we would appreciate music aright, we must remember that its beauty depends not upon the composer alone, but upon ourselves also. Deep calls unto deep, and the harmony of sound, though appealing primarily to the outward ear, must be answered by a harmony from within ourselves. The more culture we bring to the hearing of music, the wider our sympathy, the more exquisite will be the echoes which it awakens in the soul. If we would understand the composer's message we must co-operate with him. We must reach out to him with all our faculties. If we do that, the revelation of music will ceaselessly renew its beauty, ever turning unimagined aspects to gladden us.—Redfern Mason in Atlantic.

An Ugly Looking Lizard.

Among the lizards of Australia the "thorny devil" (Moloch horridus) is unrivaled in its ugliness. From the tip of its nose to the end of its tail this lizard is covered with tubercles and spines, but in spite of its dangerous appearance it is quite harmless. It measures about seven inches in length. It has a flat body, a small head and a cylindrical tail. It frequents sandy places, feeds largely on ants and is more or less diurnal in habits. Its powerful limbs are furnished with strong claws, which it uses in digging the sand, in which it often lies wholly or partially buried.

Defined.

"What is the difference between firmness and obstinacy?" asked a young lady of her fiance. "Firmness," was his gallant reply, "is a noble characteristic of women; obstinacy is a lamentable defect in men!"

Her Eyes Opened.

Scribbler—She isn't writing any more articles on how to manage a husband. Scrawler—No; she knows better now. She's married.—Philadelphia Record.

Enough Said.

Visitor—What part of prison life is the hardest to put up with? Convict—The visitors.—Judge.

In great attempts it is glorious even to fail.—Longinus.

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