



TENT-PEGGING IN THE FIELD.
This trooper failed to catch the peg on the point of his sabra.

A TROOPER PICKING UP A HANDKERCHIEF.
This feat would serve if he should lose his hat on the battlefield.

FEATS OF CAVALRYMEN.

How Expertness and Dexterity on Horseback Are Secured.

The true cavalryman and the raw recruit who has just been thrown over the head of his horse are agreed on one point in the theory of mounted warfare. They would be willing to swear roundly and strike hands upon it that the horse is more than a beast of burden, that it is, in fact, a weapon of warfare. The day of the mailed knight has long passed, and the value of the cavalryman, his successor, has somewhat decreased in recent years because of the changed conditions of warfare. In the theory of warfare the horse of the cavalryman was more than a beast of burden. It was a weapon. The cavalryman was expected to use his horse where the infantryman used his gun. Armed with sabres or spears, a body of horse in the old days would charge down upon the men on foot and frequently carry the day. That was when a gun once discharged could not be loaded again within a period of several minutes. The cavalryman in these days of magazine rifles is too good a target. Against organized infantry he has little chance. Even more than in the days of "The Light Brigade" would a charge upon the enemy's line be a ride

Into the jaws of death,
Into the mouth of hell.

In accounts of the Japanese-Russian War one does not read of the famed Cossack charges that are a part of the military history of Russia, for they have not been made. Japan practically has no cavalry at all. It is only when troops have been scattered and are to be pursued; when a baggage train has been left with an insufficient guard; when a body of the enemy's cavalry is to be met or when scout duty is called for that the mounted soldier has an opportunity to accomplish anything in these days.

The sign of the disappearance of the old theory of cavalry is its use of the carbine. In the warfare with the wily redskin, which has been the chief occupation of United States cavalry, outside of its part in the Civil War, there were no compact bodies of men to be carved with the sabre in bloody hand to hand conflict. It was a carbine that was needed to pick them off as they galloped over the prairie. So a carbine was given to the cavalry. They were called upon to use the weapon of the infantry, the gun, instead of the old weapon of the cavalryman, the lance and the sabre. In European armies the carbine has also been adopted as one of the cavalryman's weapons. They still, however, redeem themselves from the charge of being mounted infantry by carrying spears or sabres.

While the horse's position in the mounted arm has changed, the cavalryman continues to practise the picturesque and more or less difficult feats of horsemanship, tent pegging, head cutting, etc. These feats are frequently displayed at military shows. Their chief objects are to give the cavalryman confidence in himself and his steed and skill in the management of the sabre and the horse. There are few opportunities for their use in warfare, but they help the riding fighter to get into sympathy with the plunging creature beneath him.

Tent pegging in Europe is done frequently with a spear. In this country, the cavalryman having no spear, he learns to do it with a sabre. A white pine peg from six to ten inches long and two to three inches square is driven into the ground. The rider with sabre in hand gallops down upon it, dropping the point of his sabre until it is aimed directly at the peg. The horse must be guided truly or the trick will fail. If he should chance to swerve a hair's breadth, the point of the sabre will flash past the peg. As the horse approaches the peg the rider bends over his neck and holds the sabre in an almost horizontal position. He depends upon the momentum of the horse to draw the stick from the ground. Suddenly he straightens up and the white stick rises into the air on the point of his shining blade. Complacently he rides down to the end of the lists, where he takes it from his sabre point, and, turning, swings back past the hole from which he lifted it. Leaning over as he returns he drops it as near to the empty hole as he can.

HEAD CUTTING.

An American trooper practising on a dummy head.

Head cutting is not the horrible sport that the name suggests, although in real warfare it might become a very practical exercise. The "head" may be a canvas or leather bag filled with hay. It is set upon a post between five and six feet high. There are a number of different strokes by which the galloping trooper may cut at the head with his sabre. There may be more than one head. Then the trooper fires a blank cartridge as he passes it, and returning the pistol to its holster he draws his sabre, ready to

sabres flash in the air as the wielders endeavor to cut off the streaming paper colors of their opponents. Many a skull receives a whack that must have wrought it damage had it been unprotected. Soon the conflicting parties disengage, and it is found that the heads of one side have been shorn of their gay streamers and the ground is strewn with the plumage. This group of horsemen is then declared to have been defeated.

In Europe, where the sabre has perhaps a more



"PRINCE'S" SHEEP CUTTING IN INDIA.

Great skill and strength and a sword with a razorlike edge are required to slice the dressed body of a sheep in two. This feat, styled "prince's" because of its rank among the feats of swordsmanship, originated with the native Indian swordsmen.

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cut down the second. This one may be beside a hurdle. As the horse rises to take the hurdle the sabre sweeps through the air and descends upon the unfortunate head. Sometimes the blow is so great that the head is cut off the post. In a mêlée with a mounted enemy this exercise has a practical value that is unpleasant to think of. Those who attend military games in which cavalry take part have seen "fake" mêlées. Two troops of horsemen wearing padded leather helmets and pads over all the parts of their bodies which are likely to be struck by the enemy's sabre take part. Streamers of colored paper float backward from the crowns of the helmets as the horsemen prick back and forth across the lists. The streamers are of two colors, the fighters on the two sides being distinguished by the colors in their helmets. The mêlée is on. With sabres drawn the two companies ride toward each other. They intermingle, and it looks very much like a football scrimmage with the players on horses. The

important place than in this country, some of the cavalrymen become so expert with their swords that they perform a feat which in one respect resembles that described in the legend of William Tell. A trusting person takes a lemon and holds it in his outstretched hand. With a sharp weapon these experts in the use of the sabre cut through the lemon without injuring the hand.

Perhaps the most difficult feat of all is that performed by expert cavalrymen in India. It is the "prince's sheep cutting," so called because the body of a sheep is used, and the one who can perform it is reckoned among the princes of swordsmanship.

Skill in swordsmanship and the possession of a Damascus blade of fine temper make a Sikh or Mahratta a person of distinction among his fellows. That there were many of these "persons of distinction" the English found, to their sorrow, when they looked over their battlefields, in order to separate the wounded

and the dead. It is said that not infrequently the body of some unwary combatant would be found hewn right down through head and shoulders to the waist, or sliced in half, as cleanly as a joint of beef. In part this clean-cut carving was due to the splendid temper of their swords and the razorlike edge kept upon them. The owners of these swords, in order to protect the edge from such damage as might be caused by contact with the scabbard even when not in use, would carry the weapon wrapped in bandages of silk and cotton. The sinews of these native wielders of Damascus blades were kept in condition by practice on inanimate objects. One such was and still is the test of sheep cutting:

A dressed sheep is suspended from the end of a pole. The pole rests in a crotch made by the crossing of two sticks near their tops. The aspirant for honor rides at a full gallop toward the animal's body swaying in the breeze. Leaning backward and sideways from it, the rider extends his arm and sword to their full length. When almost upon the swinging sheep one seems to feel the tightening of the muscles of the forearm as the sword's flash indicates that the rider is making the dexterous turn of the wrist which is essential. The blade gleams through the air in a circle, and without apparent difficulty carves its way through the wool, fat, lean and backbone, and the head and foreshoulders of the animal drop to the ground. Even with such a blade as would delight the heart of a Rajput, the amateur would find the feat one almost impossible of accomplishment. The English officers have emulated the natives in the performance of this feat.

SERVANTS IN THE WAY.

Problem of Disposing of Maids and Valets on Ocean Liners.

"A problem which steamship lines will shortly have to face is the disposition of valets and maids," remarked an experienced ocean traveller who has recently returned from a Mediterranean trip.

"The first thing a newly rich American acquires is a retinue of servants, and the woman in particular like to carry this retinue like bangles on a chatelaine, in full view of the general public. On my last trip across, the conduct of valets and maids carried by first class passengers created no end of dissatisfaction, and finally a protest was sent to the captain, and also to the headquarters of the line in New-York City. This particular boat is noted for its *chambres de luxe*, every one of which was occupied by couples or parties attended by servants for whom first class passage had been paid. Naturally, when the services of their attendants were not needed their masters and mistresses did not want them in the narrow confines of their suites or chambers, where they were playing cards or entertaining friends; so the servants lounged about in the luxuriously furnished companionways, music room and ladies' parlor, appropriating the most cosy corners and most comfortable chairs. Every night before and after dinner they would line up just beyond the companionway leading to the dining saloon and amuse themselves by passing remarks on the appearance of passengers who could not boast of the services of maid or valet.

"After dinner, when women passengers mounted to their particular domain, the ladies' parlor with its rotunda and corridors, they faced groups of maids reclining in the most desirable chairs. Finally a complaint was carried to the captain, who explained that first class passage had been paid for these servants and he had no right to deprive them of any privileges which go with a first cabin ticket. He could only appeal to their employers to keep the servants where they belonged, in the background. He then instructed the purser to send tactfully worded notes to the employers, but before the notes could be delivered matters came to a crisis. A

English, French Etchings

OF 18TH CENTURY.
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