

# THE BERSAGLIERI, GRACK INFANTRY

## Italy's Plumed Troops Finest Riflemen in World.

Of the several corps that make up the Italian army none are more famous than the bersaglieri, Italy's plumed warriors, who are regarded as the finest infantry riflemen in the world. Originally formed in 1836 by General Alessandro de la Marmora as a portion of the newly organized Sardinian army, they took part in the Crimean war and acquitted themselves splendidly. The dress of the bersaglieri is of the most picturesque type, consisting of a dark blue uniform with red facings, but it is the headdress which is the soldier's greatest glory. This comprises a low crowned black slouch



Photo by American Press Association.  
A SOLDIER OF THE BERSAGLIERI.

hat with a very wide brim and decorated with drooping plumes of green cock's feathers. Although only paid at the rate of one penny a day, the members of this famous corps save up their coppers in order that they may be able to obtain for themselves plumes of better quality and richer hue than those provided by the government.

Every member of the bersaglieri is a picked man, chosen for his stamina and strength. When out marching these soldiers don't walk, but go at a sort of trot. So well trained are they and such are their powers of endurance that they can keep up this trot for hours. Every man of them is an athlete, and whether performing the ordinary functions of a soldier or going through the most intricate evolutions of military drill, he displays a proficiency and an ability that could only come from long and careful training.

### THE MASTER OF CHINA.

Yuan Shih Kai Denies the Reports That He Desires to Be Emperor. The report that Yuan Shih Kai was bent upon making himself emperor of China and thus turning the republic back to an empire caused quite a stir and wide comment. Such a course has been reported as advocated by Pro-



YUAN SHIH KAI.

essor Frank Johnson Goodnow of Johns Hopkins university, legal adviser to the Chinese government. But Yuan has come out declaring that he does not wish to be emperor and that none of his sons is fit to rule. This may or may not be a bluff, and it remains to be seen whether Yuan will refuse the kingly crown if it is offered to him. He has certainly on different occasions exercised the power of a monarch and an absolute one at that. Indeed, China is now a republic only in name.

## For the Children

Miss Katherine Brown,  
Five-year-old Swimmer.



Photo by American Press Association.

One of the features at a recent water carnival held at College Point, N. Y., was the swimming feats of Miss Katherine Brown, the five-year-old daughter of Commodore Al Brown, the champion long distance swimmer of the world. The little tot not alone swam a hundred yards in fast time, but performed some remarkable diving stunts from a thirty-five foot stand especially erected for the occasion. Miss Brown has been swimming since she was three years old and is considered a water marvel for her age. She does not alone use the breast stroke while swimming, but can use the crawl and the trudgeon as well. The illustration shows Miss Brown on the diving board showing some of her little friends how to begin the breast stroke. No need to say the listeners are paying strict attention to her advice.

### A Potato Race.

Children of all ages (except the baby) enjoy greatly a potato race. Two rows of potatoes are laid along the ground for a distance of a hundred feet or so, about five feet apart. A basket or pail is placed at the end of the row from which the contestants start. Two persons begin together, each having a spoon, one at a time, on the spoon without touching it with the hand, and carry it safely and drop it in the basket. One may select the potatoes in any order one pleases, but must make a separate trip for each potato. Sometimes they fling the potatoes from a distance, but if it falls short it must be picked up and placed in the basket. Whoever gets his potatoes in first is the winner of these two; then two others enter the contest. After all the company have had their turn the winners are pitted against each other until there is only one remaining, who is pronounced the champion.

### Hidden Pet Puzzle.

By taking the initial letter of a one syllable word from each of the following sentences and writing them together correctly the name of a certain kind of four footed pet will be spelled: Aim at the sun and you'll reach the moon.

Few gems are as rare as the pearl. Art is a long and tedious study. A gentle nag is the children's friend. When given an inch do not take a mile. Sweet is the bread one can earn for himself. Always look well before leaping. Answer.—Spaniel.

### Riddle.

I may be made of brass, paper or wood. I may live for a century or be easily defaced and lost. I am given as a token of love, and yet the sight of me may cause sorrow. Sometimes I hold a stream, a tree, a bird and a bush; sometimes I hold only a face. I may look like you or like your friend. I may be black or white and so small I may be seen in your eye. Answer.—A picture.

### Fern Dust.

We tiptoed through the forest  
One bright midsummer night,  
And there we found a clearing  
Aglow with fairy light.  
With a little elf man,  
With a tiny, shiny pail,  
And he was singing, "Fern dust,  
Fern dust for sale!"

He sold us each a pailful  
To sprinkle in our shoes.  
We paid him for it, gladly,  
With a bunch of meadow rue.  
And then we heard a rustling,  
A whispering in the breeze,  
And the laughter of the fairies  
Who danced beneath the trees.

We pitter pattered homeward,  
And my, but we felt queer!  
For not a soul could see us,  
And not a soul could hear.  
As, fairy-like, we tripped it,  
And scarcely touched the ground—  
The magic fern dust hid us  
And stilled the smallest sound.

But when we woke next morning,  
The fern dust all had gone;  
Had vanished with the fairies  
In the misty light of dawn,  
But we shall find that elf man  
With his tiny, shiny pail,  
For we'll hear him singing, "Fern dust,  
Fern dust for sale!"

—St. Nicholas.

## Woman's World

Beautiful Ex-Queen of Portugal  
Does War Work as Trained Nurse.



AMELIA, PORTUGAL'S EX-QUEEN.

Concealing her identity in cap and stripe for several weeks, Portugal's ex-queen has been working as a trained nurse in the Third London general hospital at Wandsworth, England.

Entering the hospital as a probationer and insisting that her identity be kept secret, her majesty has been working eight hours a day, performing all the heavy work assigned to other nurses. Every morning she motors to the hospital from Richmond.

For weeks her patients, not recognizing the ex-queen, addressed her as plain "ma'am." Only the sister in charge of her ward knew the secret till recently.

### USES FOR OLD LINEN.

How Frenchwomen Use the Tops of Old Evening Gloves.

Never throw away old linen in any shape or form. Cotton sheets and pillowcases when old and worn are soft and splendid for bandages and other sickroom needs. No new bandage ever equals old bed or table linen for such purposes, as they will tell you at any hospital, but it is understood it must be sterilized before being used.

Housekeepers are apt to overlook this use for old linen unless there is really sickness present in the house, but a store of such pieces laid away will never come amiss even if they are only used for ironing boards and for wrapping up bundles in the storeroom, for in a contagious disease old sheets must be hung over the doorways to the sickroom and kept wet with disinfectant. When the weather is hot wet sheets hung about the room will cool the air.

The linen should have been washed clean without starch, and the hands that roll it should be very clean. For an open wound sterilized gauze will be a necessity, but clean linen may be used to protect the bandages underneath. At the hospitals the old linen so utilized is baked in the regular oven to sterilize it before using.

When the bandages are rolled they should be placed in a clean covered receptacle until needed. A glass jar or a covered box will do for the purpose. The width of the bandages depends upon their use. About one inch is wide enough for a finger, and from that the widths vary. For an abdominal bandage six or eight inches may not be too wide.

The tops of old evening gloves have their use too. An evening recently came from Paris for them, to be sewed together as interlinings in vests for soldiers in winter trenches. Hundreds of poor women are kept employed making these winter comforts.

### Nurseries.

In the scheme of living where appearances must be maintained at all costs, where the keeping of servants is regarded as an absolute essential, where the whole aim is to impress one's acquaintances, children are too often regarded as needless luxuries. Where they are permitted to intrude, they come, as a usual thing, in single numbers, one child being considered enough of a burden. In Europe the women who have followed this theory have in many cases seen their entire family swept away and the sad condition has made the mothers of America pause and reflect.

When one comes to think of it, how very few houses are built with nurseries. Even large homes, rented at exorbitant rates, seldom have a nursery. One of the bedrooms has to be given over to the kiddies, but it can never be made to look quite as useful and pretty as if it had been designed for the purpose. The ideal nursery ought to be tiled all round halfway up the wall, not cold green tiles, but a warm shade of tan or a deep pink. The room ought to have fitted cupboards in it, so that not an inch of space is wasted. There should be fitted guards in front of the windows, so that there is no danger of the babies falling out, and the fireplace ought to be large and open, not the absurd little affairs that one finds in the bedrooms of the ordinary modern house.

## Character forming In Youth.

It was a saying of Froebel's that the character of a man or woman is fixed at six years of age, thus putting the formative period very early in the development of the child.

Most mothers do not believe this dictum or ignore it, as they intrust their children to nurses more during those first six years than at any other time. There are, however, an increasing number of women who realize that good habits are more easily formed and good impressions more easily made in very early childhood than later on. So now careful mothers are arranging to supervise as thoroughly as possible the nurseries of their babies and to take an active share in the training of the little ones.

One modern mother, though possessed of ample means, refuses to employ a regular nurse. She takes entire charge of her two little children, a girl of four and a boy of two. This is not the result of theory on her part, but an outgrowth from her own experience. Brought up in a luxurious household, waited on "hand and foot" by an attentive nurse, she was suddenly sent off to boarding school at the age of fourteen.

"I shall never forget," she says, "my terrible mortification at not being able to dress myself properly or even to comb my own hair. I used to cry myself to sleep at night and dread getting up in the morning to encounter that awful problem of getting neatly into my clothes."

Determined that her children shall never be helpless, she has taught these little nites to look after themselves in quite a wonderful way.

Some years ago Punch had a picture of two small boys and a young lady asking one of them, "How old is your little friend, Tommy?" To which Tommy replies, "I do not know, but I think he must be pretty old, because he can blow his own nose!"

Judged by this standard, the boy of two referred to above would be "pretty old," while the girl would be positively aged. It has taken an infinity of patience to get these children to the point of efficiency which they now enjoy, but it has certainly paid the mother for all her trouble. It is much easier to take a child and dress it than it is to sit by and see it fumble itself into its garments. These two children are still bathed in the tub, but otherwise, as the Scotch say, they "sort" themselves. There are many practical details to be considered in such work. Clothes must be made simple, so as to offer as few difficulties to little fingers as may be. The faucets in the bathroom are not only an obstacle to a child, but also a temptation to play with water and mess clean frocks, so a washing apparatus must be arranged.

The particular mother whose methods are quoted above obtained a kindergarten table such as that on which the children play their games. It has the advantage of being exactly the right height and at the same time of being both solid and stable. Painted white this answered for a washstand. Then came the question of utensils. Stoneware was too heavy, and china, though light enough to be easily handled, was quickly broken by inexperienced little hands.

The answer to this problem came from enameled ware, which is made nowadays in a number of attractive colors. Pretty enameled basins and pitchers, not too large to be lifted even when full, make implements the children can safely manage. Soap dish, toothbrush mug and sloop pail complete the outfit. Nothing can be broken, nothing is heavy, and yet all is clean, fresh and inviting.

The little girl worked her initials on her little face cloths in cross stitch, and "brother" will do the same when sufficiently advanced. Supper is always eaten in the nursery, and these tots set their own table, another kindergarten table, and their table utensils are also enameled ware in attractive colors, so that cups and saucers, plates and pitchers can be manipulated without risk.

They are very earnest about this task of setting table, and woe betide the child whose dishes are not set in the proper order by the waitress or waiter of the day!

Visitors say, "How cunning, how clever (the dear little things are!)" but not one in a dozen realizes the work and the patience that are put in the training.

Rich will be the reward when the children are older. The independence they have acquired will be more valuable to them than a fortune, for it will be a fortune that cannot be lost.

### For the Housekeeper's File.

According to the September Woman's Home Companion September is the month for all housekeepers:

- "To make the acquaintance of your children's new teachers.
- "To plan varied and healthful school lunches.
- "To see that the furnace and pipes are in working order.
- "To do all necessary painting around the house and fences.
- "To have the roof examined and repaired if necessary.
- "To choose and order any new will paper.
- "To look over the winter bedding, recover comforts and mattresses."

## Woman's Enlarging Sphere.

At twenty-five a man used to begin to live, but a woman was on the shelf. Up to a few decades ago the woman of twenty-five, married or single, was usually *passee*. If married she forswore romance and spent her days in dull and commendable faithfulness to "kinder, kirche, kueche;" if unmarried and minus an independent income, heaven help her! She passed gently into the maiden aunt stage—household helper in general to any married sister, brother, cousin that ever wanted her; subject to call when there was illness, dire need, a new baby or busting preparations for some important event; to take errors and omissions meekly and without complaint. Sometimes she persisted in being young even at twenty-seven and curled her hair and squeaked her voice to a childish treble and trained in a set of kittenish manners for social purposes. She hated to give up the thought of ever being married.

And here's her twentieth century substitute who is an undeveloped child under twenty-five. She is perfectly willing to marry, but she has plenty of interests to occupy her if she doesn't. Moreover, she has plenty of interests in addition to home and family when she does marry.

For there is one thing that business and professional interests have done for the modern woman which makes them beyond price—that have protracted youth and deferred recognition of old age indefinitely. Business and professional life do for women what they have done for men. It takes a man about ten years to put a business on the level of substantial success. Sometimes it takes more, occasionally less. The well planned business life of the average man makes the years between twenty and thirty hard plugging. At thirty he begins to have a secure footing, and if he has really lived, if he has the rich human experience that falls to the average normal individual, he is a well rounded personality and in the prime of life at forty.

Interesting occupation has shored ahead woman's prime of life similarly. The young bud of nineteen or twenty is only pleasant to look at or to play with for a little while. From twenty to thirty, if she is actively engaged in doing something worth while, she is developing continually. She is enriching her mind and personality by actual contact with life, more real than that viewed from the safe walls of a comfortable home. She is building her business life, facing conflict daily, learning self reliance. Her soul goes unsheltered through the fires of experience. At thirty she is in the prime of life, rich in interest and human sympathy and understanding. For it is not alone the patting of baby curls that develops womanly sympathy, but working in the world and seeing and experiencing what other men and women endure.

Woman's life used to be mainly retrospective. Before thirty she was already engaged in the gentle occupation of reiterating again and again her youthful experiences and conquests. The modern woman with an occupation looks ahead. The past is to her only a foundation, and her days are filled with planning for next month, next year and ten years ahead.

**Sandwiches and Sandwich Fillings.**  
Honey Sandwich.—Spread thin slices of bread with very thick honey that will not run readily; spread other side with butter stirred with cream. Press one slice of each together and cut into fancy shapes if something tasty is desired for an afternoon tea.

**Baked Bean Sandwich.**—Reduce the beans to a pulp (red kidney beans preferred). Mix pulp with melted butter, onion juice, a pinch of dry mustard, a few olives or pimientos chopped and a dash of tomato ketchup or chili sauce. Spread the mixture between slices of brown bread. Chili sauce is generally used.

**Deviled Ham Sandwiches.**—To make deviled ham chop very fine one pint of boiled ham (more fat than lean), six hard boiled eggs, one teaspoonful of mustard (the made kind), season and press in a mold. This will keep for weeks and is a good filling for sandwiches.

**Fillings for sandwiches** are numerous and nearly always on hand. First there come the sweet fillings, such as creamy fudges of all kinds, mashed chocolate creams, maple fillings, creamy maple fudge, caramel fudge, candied ginger as a garnish for outside of sandwiches, also as a filling; raisins chopped and mixed with fudge or chopped and mixed with butter, etc. They make a good filling. They do not attack digestion quite so harshly when used in this manner and may be used between crackers, cookies or bread with good results and are always liked by those who use them. Second come the cheese fillings, American cheese and Swiss cheese, and they may be cut wafer thin and served in many ways with pimientos on buttered bread. Nuts and mince are popular now as sandwich fillings, as are also the meat, chicken and vegetable fillings.

### Darning Hint.

When darning run the thread around the hole first, drawing the hole up until the edges lie flat on the darning. The hole will seem much smaller, and the darn can be made more satisfactorily.

## SWITZERLAND'S CITIZEN SOLDIERY

### United States May Follow Swiss Army Methods.

NOW that there is so much agitation for an enlarged and stronger national defense there is special interest in an examination of the army of Switzerland, for here is a "citizenry trained and accustomed to arms" such as Washington advised for the United States and an idea which has been advocated by President Wilson.

On Aug. 3, 1914, forty-eight hours after the Swiss federal council had issued orders for the mobilization of the entire army of Switzerland, 300,000 men stood at their appointed posts, ready to defend the neutrality of their country. The accomplishment of this feat won the admiration of even the much engaged belligerent nations, for it furnished eloquent proof of Swiss military discipline and efficiency.

Switzerland, with a population of 3,900,000, maintains the largest armed force proportionately of all European lands. France comes second, Germany and Sweden next. The per capita cost is relatively small because of a rational military system which is both economic and democratic.

The army of the Swiss confederation is a citizen army. Every Swiss citizen is liable to military service from his twentieth to his forty-eighth year. The federal forces consist of three divisions—1. a. the so called *auszug*, the landwehr and the landsturm. To the *auszug*, or elite, belong the young men up to the age of thirty-two; the landwehr, or first reserve, comprises the soldiers from thirty-three to forty years of age, and in the landsturm, or second reserve, are incorporated the men from forty-one to forty-eight years of age.

No Swiss citizen is excused from military duty unless he is physically unfit or under the stipulated height of five feet one and one-half inches. Citizens who are liable to do military service and who are prevented from ful-



A COMPANY OF SWISS SOLDIERS.

filling their duty on account of their residence in a foreign country are obliged to pay a regular military tax.

Military instruction is imparted at the expense of the Swiss confederation by a special instruction corps, aided by the officers of the higher and lower ranks. The year's recruits are immediately sent to one of the schools for recruits established in different cities throughout the country. Those intended for the infantry receive a preliminary training lasting sixty-five days, cavalrymen have to remain for ninety days, field and mountain artillerymen seventy-five days, engineers seventy-five days, transport men forty-two days and ambulance men sixty days.

Since the year 1907, when a new military organization took place in the Swiss army, both the cavalry and all the forces of the *auszug* have to attend a yearly repetition course lasting eleven days.

There are special courses and training for those desirous of advancing to a higher grade. There is a central military college at Thun for the instruction of officers of the general staff and another for regimental officers. Infantry instructors receive their training in a school of that description at Basel, and there are, furthermore, courses for shooting (especially for officers), also for ambulance work, etc.

Every soldier is, moreover, obliged to do a certain amount of rifle practice each year, and a record of his capacity in this line is carefully kept. It has been generally admitted by military experts that Switzerland, among the nations of second rank, possesses the strongest and best drilled army—a veritable model of democratic organization. The fact that a small neutral nation like this is obliged to maintain such an elaborate military system does not indicate in the least that the people are advocates for militarism. On the contrary, Switzerland is ever active in the spreading of peace propaganda, but the present war has already proved the immense value of her military system in safeguarding her territory from invasion and a violation of her neutrality.