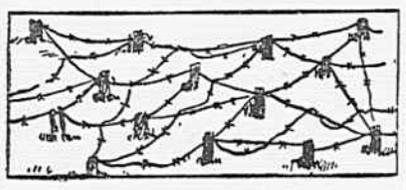
DEADLY WAR TRAPS

All Sorts of Contrivances to Stop Soldiers.

Simple Barbed Wire Is Not Considered Sufficient for the Purpose—Some of the More Modern Methods.

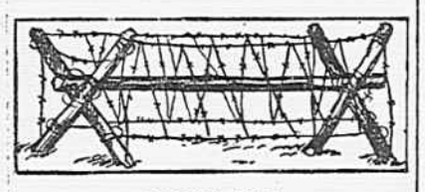
The chevaux-de-frise is sometimes known as the "knife-rest," and consists simply of a long pole, resting at each end on two pieces of wood constructed in the form of a St. Andrew's cross. To this framework the wire is attached, and the chevaux-de-frise is then thrown over the parapet by two men. When the garrison of the trench have not the necessary framework, the wire is distributed in loose rolls in front of the position, forming rough cylinders three or four feet in diameter and eight to twelve feet in length. Used even in this impromptu way barbed wire has proved itself to be of the greatest assistance to a defending party.

The erection of wire entanglements, even when the trenches are some dis-



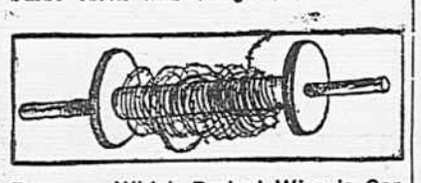
Chevaux-de-frise.

tance apart, is at all times dangerous (300 yards is thought a considerable distance in the western front—I have been in firing trenches only 60 yards from the Germans). The men slip over the parapet and in the first case knock in the supports with mallets,



Russian Trip.

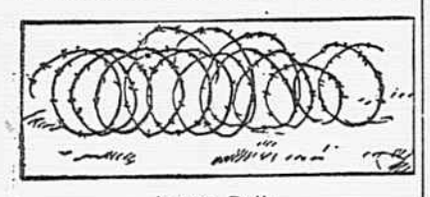
having previously carefully wrapped cloth round the heads of the latter so that the sound may be deadened. Two other men carry the wire drum—a wooden cylinder around which the wire is rolled—with a long pole through the center for carrying purposes, while a comrade attaches the wire to its supports. The work is slow and nerve-straining, as star-shells burst often and oblige the men to



Drum on Which Barbed Wire Is Carried.

crouch low, remaining motionless until the flare burns out.

To each soldier who takes part in modern warfare thick gloves for gripping wire and strong pliers for cutting it are as essential as the rifle and bayonet. Before an assault by his own regiment the soldier cuts his own wire, and he must then endeavor as best he may to cut and hack his way through



Loose Rolls.

the enemy's, pulling down a support here, cutting the wires while the machine-gun batteries rap out their message of death towards him. Thus barbed wire, so simple in itself, so deadly when used in the various ways I have described, enters into every phase of operations in the firing zone. —London Exchange.

Only Hero Husbands for Breton Girls.

The young girls in Brittany have formed themselves into an association which forbids its members marrying any young man who has not taken his part in the war.

This does not only refer to the deserters and those who fled their duty, but to the "slackers" who found the means, through influence or lying; without reason of ill health or for other just cause, to keep safe in the rear and leave their comrades to do the fighting.

The rallying cry of these patriotic young Breton girls is: "Better a cripple than a slacker!"

One member of the association expressed thus her thought: "I would rather love a man who had no arm than one who had no heart."

Rather Dull.

"Any activity in real estate about here?" asked the tourist.

"None whatever," answered the disconsolate citizen of an Arizona town, "except when a puff of wind comes along and shifts a little sand."

Such Ignorance!

"Why didn't you call my street?" asked the irate passenger.

"Beg pardon," answered the polite conductor, "but I didn't know it was yours."

True to Life.

He—And how did the novel end?

She—Oh, in the usual manner. The duke married the American heiress, and they lived unhappy ever after.

EVIDENCE IN A SINGLE HAIR

Human or Animal? What Kind of Animal? Scientists Can Tell Without Fail.

To the German analyst hair is packed with information. The approximate age and physical condition can be constructed by an examination of a single hair, Melville Davisson Post writes in the Saturday Evening Post.

The hair of every animal has certain distinguishing characteristics. It is not to be mistaken by a competent investigator. Some animals, as for example the cow, have three types of hair. These will be known by their structure. Under a proper microscopical examination hairs will be as easily distinguished by an expert as varieties of trees in a grove will be distinguished by a forester.

There was a case in which a dagger found on the prisoner had a few short hairs caught entangled in a nick of the blade. He explained this by saying that he had used the dagger to kill a rabbit that he had found trapped in a hedge. The authorities reported to the police, after an examination of the dagger, that the hairs were not of human origin, but they also added that they were not rabbit hairs—they were squirrel hairs.

The police were extremely puzzled until they finally discovered that on the night of the homicide the prisoner had worn a great coat trimmed with squirrel fur. He had, in fact, carefully washed the knife after the assassination and thereby removed every evidence of his act, but, unfortunately for him, he made the mistake of attempting to dry the dagger by wiping it on the fur lining of his great coat.

SOME FACTS ABOUT RADIUM

Found Only in the Most Minute Quantities—Minerals That Carry It Easy to Determine.

Radium is a metal and is described as having a white metallic luster. It has been isolated only once or twice and few people have seen it. Radium is ordinarily obtained from its ores in the form of hydrous sulphate, chloride or bromide, and it is in the form of these salts that it is usually sold and used. These are all white or nearly white substances, whose appearance is no more remarkable than common salt or baking powder. Radium is found in nature in such exceedingly small quantities that it is never visible even when the material is examined with a microscope. Ordinarily radium ore carries only a small fraction of a grain to the ton of material, and radium will never be found in large quantities because it is formed by the decay of uranium, a process which is wonderfully slow, and radium itself decays and changes to other elements so rapidly that it is impossible for it to accumulate naturally in visible masses. Minerals that carry radium, however, are fairly easy to determine. One of them, pitchblende, as generally found, is a black mineral about as heavy as ordinary iron, but much softer. The principal radium mineral, carnotite, has a bright canary yellow color, and is generally powdery. There are other radium-bearing minerals of less importance.

Webster's Power Over Audience.

An interesting anecdote of Daniel Webster is found in "Bygone Days in Boston" in the North American Review. Webster was delivering an address in Faneuil hall on the necessity for individual exertion and unflinching patriotism to avert the dangers that threatened the political party whose principles he espoused, when he perceived a terrible sway of the packed assembly, consequent on the rush of those endeavoring to enter, and noted the danger that might ensue. The orator stopped short in the middle of a sentence, advanced to the edge of the platform, extended his arms in an authoritative attitude, and, in a stentorian voice of command, cried out: "Let each man stand firm!" The effect was instantaneous. Each man stood firm; the great heaving mass of humanity gained its equilibrium, and, save the long breath of relief that filled the air, perfect stillness ensued. "That," exclaimed the great orator, "is what we call self-government!" so apt an illustration of the principle he was expounding that the vast audience responded with deafening cheers.

Five Kinds of Thunderstorms.

Recent study of thunderstorms has resulted in science's dividing them into five distinct types. They are the heat thunderstorms which occur in regions of high temperature and nearly uniform pressure; storms which occur in the southeast quadrant of an almost circular cyclone; storms which occur between two anticyclones; and those which occur on the boundary between warm and cold waves. Of these, all but the first are produced by the over and underrunning of winds of different temperatures, which in some way not yet understood, cause masses of moist air to rise.

Matter of Business.

"I hope you don't associate with that man I saw you speak to in the street just now?"

"Associate with him! What do you take me for? That man, sir, is one of the most rascally, corrupt, sneaking, under-handed, low-down, villainous, and depraved scoundrels that ever kept out of jail!"

"I know it. But why are you on speaking terms with him at all?"

"Why, I'm—er—his lawyer."

A DOG AND A CAT

By LOUISE OLIVER.

Madeline dipped the hot sirupy strawberries out of the big kettle on to four large platters on the table, and turned out the burners of the gasoline stove. She surveyed her morning's work proudly.

Lifting one platter at a time in her strong, white arms, she carried them to a bench on the back deck of the houseboat on which the Cardwells spent four months every summer.

On an island a short distance below, was Greenglade, a fashionable summer resort, with an immense hotel in its center.

Madeline, leaning over the water, heard a whistle, and listened intently. "There's the steamer with the new arrivals at the dock. I wonder if Austin Maycourt, the much-expected, is among them. Here I am up to my ears preserving berries for mother to give as Christmas gifts to our relatives next winter, and every other girl within a radius of ten miles is primping for the dance tonight."

In a few minutes, a figure in a blue silk swimming suit and rubber cap climbed to the top of the rail, gave a little spring and disappeared like a knife blade under the smooth surface of the water.

"Bravo!" cried a young man in flannels, who had just appeared on the island shore unseen by the water nymph. "That was a bully dive, by George! Here Krist, come back, sir!" to his dog. But Krist, a big wolf hound, was in the water headed for the boat and refused to turn.

Madeline, swimming under water, came up on the opposite bank, then turned and to her horror saw a dog swimming for dear life toward the boat. "My berries!" she cried in dismay and plunged instantly into the water again. "If he gets there first he'll ruin them!"

But the dog won the race! Just at first, he didn't see the berries, but kept sniffing around for Taj, the Persian cat, that Madeline had locked in the dining room. But giving it up as a bad job, he returned to the porch, and, lo, the berries! A long, red tongue shot out and he tasted, he lapped awhile, essayed another search for the cat, and then returned to sample another platter.

Madeline pulled herself up the steps and saw the devastation of her morning's work. She gave a little scream of dismay. "You nasty, horrid beast, get out of here! I—I'd like to kill you!"

"Krist, here, Krist!" And this time, being satisfied, Krist went.

Madeline went to the dance that night in a belligerent mood. "Now, dear," admonished her mother, who had returned, "be careful what you do and say."

"Oh, mother, dear, pigeonhole that particular lecture, please. That man had no business to let his dog get away. I'm sure it was Austin Maycourt, and that only makes it worse. He's spoiled and petted wherever he goes, and he thinks the king can do no wrong."

That evening Austin Maycourt asked for a dance after he had been presented, and Madeline refused, saying she was tired.

"Well, I'd rather sit it out with you anyway, if I may," he suggested.

Madeline did not answer.

"I take it that silence gives consent," as he sat down. "You see, I'm anxious to find out what my dog did today."

She told him briefly and forcibly; also what she thought of the whole matter.

"But you'll let me pay for the berries, surely!" he cried in consternation.

"You can settle with mother if you like, but I gave up a good game of tennis for those berries, and I can't see that you can help that much." And, do what he could, Austin could not make Madeline unbend.

The next day Madeline, armed with her racquet, turned her boat for the mainland. In the stern sat Taj, the cat. "You must be very good today, puss. Remember, you owe this vacation to the cut on your paw that I want the doctor to see. And while I'm playing tennis you must take a nap and be very quiet."

So Madeline played in a double set and Taj, with a bandaged foot, slept near by. But by and by he woke up and, feeling like exploring, slipped away unnoticed by his mistress. A row of cottages stood across the street from the court and several windows were open. Taj leaped through one of these. Then Madeline missed him.

"Puss, here, puss! Kitty, kitty, kitty! Oh, I must find him," she cried

She left the court and gave chase to her pet. In the middle of the road she met Austin Maycourt and bowed. But before they passed Taj appeared with something green in his mouth. Austin leaped for the cat and caught him, taking a dead bird from his mouth

"It's Peter! My pet parrakeet," he cried. "We let him run over the house because he was so tame. Poor little Peter!" stroking the lifeless little bunch of feathers.

Madeline wept softly as she touched the bird. "I'm so sorry! It's all my fault. I let my cat get away. Oh, what can I do to make up for it"

"Be a little kind to me," suggested Austin promptly.

"I will," she promised. "Comeover to the boat and I will give you a cup of tea."

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ABLE TO GIVE DEADLY SHOCK

Electric Eels, Found in South America, Have Been Provided With Strange Power.

The marshy waters of Bera and Rastro in South America are filled with innumerable electric eels, which can at pleasure discharge from every part of their slimy, yellow-speckled bodies a deadening shock.

This species of gymnotus is about five or six feet in length. It is powerful enough to kill human beings and the largest animals when it discharges its nervous organs at one shock in a favorable direction. It was once found necessary to change the line of road

Unwelcome Visitor.

from Uritucu across the steppe, owing to the number of horses which, in fording a certain rivulet, annually fell a sacrifice to these gymnoti, which had accumulated there in great numbers.

All other species of fish shun the vicinity of these formidable creatures. Even the angler, when fishing from the high bank, is in dread lest an electric shock should be conveyed to him along the moistened line.

Ancient "Cures" Still Persist.

Superstitions as to methods of curing diseases, once very prevalent, are not altogether extinct yet. Some of them were very ridiculous. Much ancient faith clustered about the mandrake root, which was carved in the form of a doll, dressed in fine clothes, and kept in a box or coffin concealed in some corner of the house. Each month it was washed in wine and water and freshly garbed. Another universal cure was to carry a piece of mistletoe which had been cut from a tree by a golden sickle and caught in a white vessel as it fell. Metal scraped from a church bell or a piece of the rope was supposed to have a similar protective influence against disease, as also a cloth stained in the blood of a murderer, or the rope with which he was hanged.

Catch Aeroplanes by Cowboy Lasso.

Cowboys of the air may be the new title of airmen if the invention of Joseph A. Steinmetz of Philadelphia is adopted in war. It has been developed from the principle of the lasso.

The attacking machine soars higher and suspends a bomb lower than the hostile craft. The bomb is attached to a long wire, on the other end of which is a heavier weight, which is thrown on the other side of the enemy machine.

The weight descends by gravity and draws the lighter bomb up into contact with the craft. This causes the bomb to explode and destroys the airship. Mr. Steinmetz is convinced that it is not necessary to catch the enemy aviators asleep in order to effect the maneuver.

Quickly Recover From Wounds.

A remarkable recovery among the Austrian wounded is reported. It is stated in Vienna that no less than 89.5 per cent of the total wounded soldiers in 1915 recovered so completely as to be fit for service again. Of the remainder 8.8 per cent were retired, and only 1.7 per cent died. These figures show a considerable improvement over the returns at the beginning of the war. In August, 1914, out of 100 wounded 85 recovered, twelve were retired, and three died; but after this the percentage of recoveries rose gradually, though varying somewhat in different months. The highest rate of complete recoveries was reached in the summer months—91.7 in June and 91.8 in May and July. In December, 1914, the death rate had been reduced below 2 per cent, and in January and February, 1915, it was only 1.4 and 1.3 respectively.

Make Use of Derelicts.

The utilization of trees which have been washed loose along the river bottom, has developed into a remunerative industry in Nebraska, on the Missouri river. The floating logs are made into rafts and floated to the town of Decatur, where a sawmill has been erected solely for the utilization of this salvage timber. More than 20,000 feet of good lumber were made last year from these derelicts. The industry is under the control of one man. He frequently digs out logs which have been submerged for years. He asserts that if a log is fully submerged, so that no air reaches it, no deterioration comes from its being under water, while half submerged logs begin to rot in a few months.

Putting Him to the Test.

"I can't tell you how sorry I am to see you in such a plight," said the ready sympathizer to an old friend in distress.

"Don't attempt to tell me," replied the old friend. "I know you are a busy man and I don't want to take up much of your time. Just show me and I will be on my way."

The Crux of the Matter.

"It isn't the high cost of living that causes so much trouble in the world."

"You surprise me."

"It's the high cost of living up to a more or less imaginary position in life which people think they are bound to maintain."

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