

The Red Cross and Russian-Japanese War

Something of the History of This Remarkable Organization Instituted During Our Civil War.

THE dogs of war have slipped their leashes, and Gen. Sherman's declaration that "war is hell" is again to spell its awful truth out before the world. The boom of cannon, the roar of musketry, the clashing of saber and bayonet, will be followed by the scenes of agony and death. The raging, merciless monster of war presses on in relentless pursuit of his human victims, and leaves behind the hundreds and thousands of wounded, dying and dead, and then along this bloody path comes the gentle tread of the messengers of mercy, as they seek to undo as far as possible the awful destruction wrought, to alleviate the suffering, and to sweeten the dying moments of the fatally wounded. As modern invention and ingenuity have increased the terrible of war there has been a corresponding advance made in the organization, equipment and drill of the hospital and ambulance corps of the armies of the various countries.

Japan, who has amazed the world in the last dozen years by her remarkable development and splendid advance along commercial, industrial, military and naval lines, has at the same time been perfecting her army and creating a navy that is her pride and boast, and the dread of her present foe. And perhaps the most striking feature and efficient branch of Japan's army organization, splendid as it is, is the hospital and medical service. Japan is credited with having the model field and military hospital service of all modern armies. At Tientsin and Peking in 1900 it is said that it proved its efficiency and practical superiority when working side by side with the same service of the American, English, French, Russian, German, Austrian and Italian forces. The American and English official reports of that campaign frankly concede this fact. And in the Japanese-Chinese war in 1894-95, it was almost as smooth working and efficient, and did not break down during the rapid marches up the Korean

head of the Russian Red Cross and will work under the direct supervision and patronage of the empress dowager. The officers of the society have been filled to carry on the work. To begin with it will have \$5,000,000, of which St. Petersburg alone contributed \$2,500,000. In addition to this work the Red Cross society, Emperor Nicholas has accepted the offer of the knightly orders of Count and Livonia and Esthonia, to equip a medical corps for service at the front, and this is only the beginning of similar offers from other royal orders and Russian societies.

Russia was the last of the European powers to recognize the Red Cross movement and enter into the treaty known as the Geneva convention. The movement was the outgrowth of the experiences of a Swiss gentleman by the name of Henri Dunant, who witnessed in 1859 the horrors of war on the battlefield of Solferino, and was aroused to the need of some organization which would have for its object the amelioration of the suffering of the soldiers on the battlefields and in the hospitals. As a result of his efforts an international convention was called to meet in Geneva in 1864, to which 16 governments responded. All the European nations of Europe were represented but Russia, and it was not until three years after this convention, in 1876, that she adopted the code of the society, providing for the protection of the hospitals and people bearing the insignia of the Red Cross and for a proper care of wounded enemies or prisoners.

The Geneva Red Cross treaty was not adopted by the United States until 1882, and it remained for this country to organize the civil branch of the society and have it adopted as the American amendment. This provides for the extending of relief in cases of disaster other than war, and of late years the American Red Cross society has taken the lead in work of this character, the most important instance being that in connection with the Maritimo volcano horror. An entirely new develop-



A RED CROSS NURSE ON A CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD.

peninsula and across Manchuria to Port Arthur and Newchwang. And an efficient auxiliary of the army hospital service is the Red Cross society. In every large city in Japan there are schools for training nurses. At Tokio the empress, who is the special patroness of the Red Cross hospital and ambulance service, presides at the annual graduation exercises, and with her own hands distributes the diplomas to the white-capped graduates. The fact that one of the imperial princesses has taken the full course of training, and other of the court ladies have followed her example, has proved a powerful incentive to the young women of Japan to enter these hospital training schools.

Every province in Japan has a branch of the Red Cross and each year a union meeting of all these branches is held at Tokio. Often as many as 10,000 members gather in the great outdoor session in Ueno park. The insignia of the order is seen everywhere at this time, and there is the immediate prospect that this important auxiliary to the hospital and medical service will have plenty to do. Preparations for the war which was believed to be coming have been going on for months, and the local Red Cross societies are in shape to render even more efficient service than in the north China campaign of 1900. Every year has brought some flood, earthquake or other disaster which has called forth the efforts of the society, and the prompt relief which has always been extended is evidence of its preparedness for service at all times. Baron Hashinoko is at the head of the Red Cross in Japan.

It may not be generally known that the prominent physician of Chicago, Dr. Nicholas Senn, helped to organize the Japanese Red Cross society, and is also one of its directors. Dr. Senn has just returned home from Japan, and it is altogether likely that he will be summoned to go back. If he goes he will probably take with him an ambulance corps and surgeons and nurses. It is probable that before many months many American nurses and Red Cross workers will be serving side by side with their Japanese cousins, and it has been hinted by those who are familiar with the efficiency of the Red Cross in Japan that they will be able to learn many a lesson by their service there.

Russia, as well as all the other principal powers of the world, has Red Cross societies, to supplement and strengthen the work of the hospital and medical service of the army, and while it is not as well organized and ready for work as the society of Japan, and those of other countries, still it is alive to the probable needs for active service on the battlefield and in army hospitals. Count Von Ostoff, dashkoff, who was one of the closest friends of Emperor Alexander III, the father of the present czar, is at the

work of the American national society in the industrial field where organized effort is being made to provide efficient means of rendering instant emergency treatment in case of accident occurring in factories, mills, on the railroads, in stores, schools, homes and wherever accident is liable to occur.

Ever since Florence Nightingale rendered such noble and splendid services in the hospital at Soutari during the terrible Crimea war in 1854-56, the power and efficiency of women in time of war has been recognized. It is through the Red Cross society now mainly that they extend their services, but during the civil war in this country and when there was no Red Cross organization through which to work, the women came by hundreds and thousands offering their service, and rendering aid on the battle field and in the hospitals which brought many a poor fellow back to the land of the living and home to his wife and children.

It is known that quite a number of Norwegian vessels were in Chinese and Japanese waters at the time of the outbreak of the hostilities.

When Bjornson left Gothenburg on his way to Rome the scholars of the coeducation school of Gothenburg gathered at the railway station and sang "Ja, vi elsker". The poet thanked them and asked the young girls to sing the Swedish national hymn, whereupon they gave "Du gamla, Du friska." Then he led them in cheering for Sweden, and the children cheered for Norway and Bjornson.

The Norwegian steamer Mathilda, bound for Nagasaki, was captured by the Russians in the Red Sea, but released after eight days' detention.

GOSSIP FROM SKANDINAVIA

Paris, Feb. 29.—Reports from St. Petersburg to the effect that Norway and Sweden are preparing to join Russia in case Europe should be drawn into the present conflict with Japan are indignantly denied by Scandinavian officials and other personalities in the Scandinavian colony in Paris.

A large subscription in aid of the Russian Red Cross society made by one Norwegian bank lent color to the rumor. "The story would not be worth denying if it had not gained such publicity in Paris," said an official of the Swedish legation today. "Sweden and Norway," he continued, "mean to preserve the strictest neutrality; but even supposing eventually it should prove necessary to separate the international lines, the tie that binds Scandinavia to Britain is the desire to permit of its entering an anti-British combination. This was sufficiently proved during the South African war." Finnish exiles in this city seem to think the moment has come to make a stroke for freedom from the hateful domination of the Muscovite.

Last night a secret meeting was held to discuss the situation. Besides many well-known Finns a number of Danes, Swedes and Norwegians were present. One of the organizers of the meeting, a critic and scholar of world-wide fame, explained that the meeting was attended by several prominent Frenchmen, whose names it is important to keep secret. "It is true," said the critic, "that efforts are being made to discover what are the chances for Finnish freedom while Russia's attention is occupied in the Far East. It is also true that the outlook is none of the best."

The Hamburg steamer Woglinde was grounded last spring off Nysted, Lolland, and some Danish tug-boats had to bring it afloat again. The cargo of the Woglinde was worth \$120,000, and the maritime court of Copenhagen has awarded the owner of the tug-boats a salvage of \$20,444.

The government proposed, and the rigsdag passed the following bill by a unanimous vote: "Whoever, in case of war between foreign powers, commits acts which imperil the neutrality of the state of Denmark or violate a regulation issued by the government for the protection of such neutrality, shall, unless his crime deserves more severe punishment, be imprisoned according to common law, or, under aggravating circumstances, be sentenced to penal servitude. Only under exceptionally extenuating circumstances the punishment may be less than one month's imprisonment or committed to a fine." This law covers the Danish colonies, and shall be in force for two years after its passage.

Twins that differ seventeen days in age. There is generally only a few minutes' difference between the ages of twins. A difference of several hours is very rare. In the last number of the Hospitalstidende, Dr. Paulin gives an account of the birth of a pair of twins in Copenhagen between whose ages there was a difference of 17 days. Both of them were girls. Nine days after the birth of the first one the mother left her bed and performed her regular duties as a housewife until the seventh day after the birth of the first child. It is supposed that this remarkable case was due to a peculiar anatomical structure of the internal organs of the mother.

The committee on military affairs proposed an appropriation of \$5,000 as traveling expenses of military experts to the battlefield, but the storting defeated the proposition by a vote of 70 to 47.

The Norwegian storting, in secret session, has endorsed the commercial treaty with Spain, raising the duties on certain kinds of wine 75 cents a gallon. The date fixed for this national demonstration is April 4. The common people of Sweden have amply demonstrated their ability to "pull together" in a socio-political movement of this kind, and the "rallies" on the Second Day of Easter, 1904, will surely make a great impression on those who are bound to be especially attentive to the arrival of the suffrage reform bill. The oldest woman in Sweden is supposed to be Anna Brita Isberg of Norkoping, who will be 103 years old April next.

Berlin, Feb. 26.—The latest press dispatches from Stockholm announce that the Swedish and Danish foreign offices are revising the neutrality regulations drawn up in 1855, when a war was expected between Russia and England, and when this is completed it will be submitted to England and Russia for their approval. The Swedish government, in view of the Russo-Japanese war, has proclaimed Stockholm and Karlskrona military ports.

O. V. Ekstrom, the depot agent at Stoch, has retired from public service at the early age of 47 years. He is to receive a pension because he has been in active service for 30 years. He is supposed to be the only perfectly healthy Swede who receives a pension at that age.

A Russian who was suspected of being a spy was arrested near the fortifications at Vesterberget, Gothenburg. He claimed to be engaged in studying the geology of the country, and as his papers were found to be satisfactory by the authorities he was soon released again.

A heroine at the Aalesund fire, Anna Aune is the name of a servant girl employed at the house of the Devold family in Aalsund when the city was destroyed by fire. Madame Devold was eighty years old and suffered greatly from asthma, and when the fire broke out she seemed despondent in the flames. Anna, who actually saved her life, said: "Flee, and save your own life!" But Anna answered that she would do anything to save the life of her employer, and she led the aged lady up the mountain side. But the latter was soon completely exhausted, and she could not walk another step. It was evident that the only way from certain death was across the mountain ridge, which rose 500 feet above them. But Anna was strong and brave, and she took Mrs. Devold upon her back and carried her up the mountain side through the darkness and the dense smoke, and finally placed her burden in a safe place on the opposite side of the mountain ridge. The ascent was so difficult that many healthy persons found great difficulty in making it empty handed on that dreadful night. Anna Aune will no doubt receive some token of recognition of her pluck in the hour of danger.

The one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Fichteberg was celebrated by the Deutsches Volksbund of Berlin. Besides the members of the society, a great number of Scandinavians had accepted the invitation to the celebration, which was characterized by pronounced sympathy for Scandinavia in general, and for the oppressed Finns in particular.

Chief of Police Carlstedt of Helsingborg seems to have less wisdom than patriotism. In his eagerness to purify the city of everything non-Russian he had the British colors taken down from the building of the British consulate. The British consul made a great stir. The flag went up, and Carlstedt may go out of office.

The executive committee of the sugar beet growers' association has suggested that if the sugar manufacturers are unwilling to raise the prices of beets they will have to grant the beet growers a certain per cent of the profits. The committee explains that this offer is made because the beet growers want to keep secret their responsibility on the manufacturers in case the sugar industry of Sweden is seriously crippled as a result of the contest between the manufacturers and the beet growers.

Some of the military authorities claim to have noticed that the soldiers are more apt to get drunk after the sale of beer was stopped at the military cantineries. A mass meeting at Arlof, which was attended by about one hundred men, resolved by a unanimous vote to establish a brewery for the production of beer containing a minimum of alcohol, and a committee of nine was elected to take the initial steps towards realizing the plan.

The Swedish sugar beet growers' association has issued a circular impression on the sugar manufacturers. Wilhelm Westrup of Lund, who represents the sugar factories at Karlshamn and Suedala, has publicly declared that if the beet growers insist upon the prices asked by them the Swedish sugar industry will be wiped out at once. To substantiate his assertion he pointed to the fact that the Swedish factory, the total profits of this factory for nine years past, he says, amounted to \$166,724.23. But he adds that if the factory had paid the prices demanded by the beet growers' association there would have been an actual loss of \$172,664.66. "Comments are invited," says Mr. Westrup triumphantly.

The executive committee of the Swedish labor party has issued a circular to the workmen of Sweden urging them to hold mass meetings all over the country and pass resolutions on the great suffrage reform bill which the cabinet has just introduced in the riksdag. The date fixed for this national demonstration is April 4. The common people of Sweden have amply demonstrated their ability to "pull together" in a socio-political movement of this kind, and the "rallies" on the Second Day of Easter, 1904, will surely make a great impression on those who are bound to be especially attentive to the arrival of the suffrage reform bill.

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The statistical bureau has just issued a report on the banking business of Sweden for the year 1902. At the close of that year there were 394 savings banks in Sweden. The total deposits increased \$7,875,000 during the year, and at the close of the year they amounted to \$133,948,355.

MINNESOTA NEWS.

Eggs and Poultry.

Minnesota is not generally considered a poultry and egg state, yet poultry and eggs are seventh in the list of farm products. The shipments from the state in 1899, according to the United States census reports, were valued at \$7,364,856. It would have required a train more than twenty miles long to haul the egg shipments alone. Wheat, amounting annually to \$50,601,948, heads the list of Minnesota farm products. Then follow the dairy products, animals sold, oats, hay and corn. Eggs and poultry are next. Then comes barley, valued at \$7,220,729, and flaxseed, valued at \$5,898,556. Still the average citizen does not consider eggs and poultry as important a product as flaxseed.

With the settlement of Minnesota the production of poultry has increased rapidly. Compared with Wisconsin, Minnesota makes an excellent showing, although it is still considerably behind Iowa, the banner egg state of the union.

The number of chickens in Minnesota in 1879 is given at 2,238,355; Wisconsin, 3,853,726; Iowa, 8,539,774. In 1890 Minnesota had 4,744,211, Wisconsin 6,173,812 and Iowa 21,993,273. The figures for 1900 show a still larger increase except for Iowa, also in that year poultry less than three months, old was not counted. Minnesota had 8,142,693, valued at \$2,774,648; Wisconsin had 8,447,549 valued at \$2,410,714, and Iowa 20,843,347, valued at \$6,333,404.

There are two outlaw dogs in Duluth upon whose head a price is set. One is described as a bulldog and the other as a wooly-looking creature, and the two are kept together, killing dogs they run across, without the slightest regard to pedigree.

The highest priced dog killed by the murderous canines is rated at \$100, and was owned by Dr. H. V. Goetlich. A dozen other dogs have been killed by the fierce brutes and individual rewards are offered for them, dead or alive.

Several dogs have been severely injured, but escaped with their lives. The strange dogs are operating in the eastern half of the city in the best residence districts. They will be killed on sight.

We Won Again.

Dairy Commissioner McConnell has received word that Minnesota butter makers too, first and second place in the contest, conducted by the National Creamery Butter Makers' association, and the dairy division of the department of agriculture. H. C. Hansen, of Smith Mills, ranked first in the country on this test, with a score of 97, and H. A. Goetsch, of Money Creek scored with 96½.

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The city council of Stockholm has an option on the Enskede estate at Brankryka, the ground being needed for the city waterworks.

The rural carriers of Goodhue county organized with twenty-five members

ROUND ABOUT THE STATE.

John Florin's planing mill at Crookston went up in smoke the other morning.

At the close of the farmers' institute at St. Cloud, a woman's institute was organized.

The school population of Bemidji is growing faster than the school board can secure quarters.

There is a project on foot over in Itasca county, Minn., for the manufacture of turpentine.

Kearney & Co. have sold the Milling roller mill to the Blaisdell Detroit company of Minneapolis.

The Crescent is the name of the mine in the southwest corner of the southwest quarter, 22-53-29.

Sixty patients were transferred from the insane hospital at Fergus Falls to the asylum at Anoka.

The fortieth anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Clayton, was celebrated at Frazee.

Dietrich Becker, aged 75, who came to Hastings in 1856 and opened the first wagon shop, died in Empire yesterday.

During the summer between \$30,000 and \$40,000 will be expended on stations and the parking of the levee at Reel Wing.

Willie Anderson, a sixth grade pupil of the Stephen schools, shot and killed a wolf within half a mile of the schoolhouse.

That the east side of Minneapolis is in the clutches of an epidemic of typhoid is practically admitted by the city health officials.

Lang & Carter have begun work on their broom handle factory at Nary. Citizens put up a substantial bonus to secure its location.

Ernest B. Brown has resigned as captain of Company H, Mankato, and the command has been assumed temporarily by First Lieutenant Fred E. Day.

Judge Pond has appointed H. V. Mervet to act with Freeman P. Lane as one of the receivers for the Miller and Manufacturers' Fire Insurance company.

A mail sack was stolen from the station at New York Mills, the thief taking it upon the platform during the night, cutting it open and removing its contents.

Sneak thieves entered the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Guy L. Landis, Minneapolis, and carried off plunder to the value of \$300. The property taken consisted of silverware.

Alfred Anderson, aged about 35, was killed in A. C. Hatch's clay pit at Battle Lake, while loading clay. He was buried under a chunk of clay and died almost instantly.

The Russians of St. Paul, who reside in the settlement on the West side, have little sympathy for their fellow countrymen who are waging war in the east against the Japanese.

The council of Lake Crystal is advertising the sale of \$12,000 worth of town bonds, which will pay 6 per cent and run twenty years, for the purpose of erecting a city hall and stand pipe.

Louis Larson, a team contractor, was killed by a train on the Duluth, Missabe & Northern road near Duluth. He was walking on the track and failed to heed the signals. Larson was not married.

The Soo road made its report of 1903 gross earnings in Minnesota to the state auditor. The earnings were \$2,329,863.25, and the 3 per cent tax amounts to \$71,096.64. The earnings for 1902 were \$2,236,303.01.

August Mill, a young man, committed suicide by shooting off the top of his head with a shotgun. No reason can be found for the act. His wife was at a neighbor's house and upon her return found him dead.

Minnesota postmasters appointed: T. Anderson, Boston, vice Hans Hanson, resigned; D. E. Jones, Bristol, vice James Berning, resigned; Hans Larum, Koland, vice Lars Olin, resigned, and C. B. Rae, Kroschel, vice August Kroschel, resigned.

A small blaze in the boiler room of the Washburn-Crosby A mill, Minneapolis, gave the fire department a small scare. The blaze was extinguished by the engineers before the department arrived, but several streams of water were put on.

Edward Rogers, captain and left end of the university football team last year, will coach the Carlisle Indians. Rogers yesterday announced his determination of accepting a flattering offer from the athletic management of that school.

George Van San granted a requisition for Thos. Hopkin, under arrest at Aitkin. He is wanted at Black River Falls, Wis., on the charge of seduction, preferred by the parents of 15-year-old Rosa Gehring, who ran away with him to Aitkin.

Inquiries have been sent to the lumber camps in Lake and Cook counties and every effort to locate Anton Zazaki, a timber cutter, is being made. Zazaki left West Duluth about the middle of December for the northern part of Cook county.

The residence of R. H. Martin, eight miles from Elk River, was destroyed by fire early this morning. Not a piece of furniture or clothing was saved, and the occupants were only rescued by the heroic efforts of the neighbors.

Approximately 800 miles of ditches, draining 1,600,000 acres of land and increasing its value \$8,000,000, have been completed by the state and by the counties in the northern part of Minnesota.

The Wells-Fargo Express company reports its gross earnings in Minnesota for 1903 to be \$32,777.25. Of this \$13,111.90 was paid railroads for transportation. The 6 per cent tax on the remainder is \$1,179.88.

Burglars entered the home of Chas. S. Yarnell, Minneapolis, between 8 and 7 o'clock in the evening, and carried off plunder to the value of \$700.

An Austrian named Giovanni Lukeden was the only victim of the explosion at the Monroe mine. The missing have been accounted for. Lukeden was literally torn to pieces by the explosion.

State Auditor Iverson approved applications for 464 wolf bounties under the new law amounting to \$2,460.50. The largest amount received by any one county was \$270 for Otter Tail. Aitkin gets \$460.

Two masked men, brandishing revolvers, held up three persons in J. J. Cooper's grocery in Minneapolis, and secured about \$18 in cash.

KOREA—LAND OF THE MORNING CALM

Peculiarities of the Little Eastern Kingdom That is Now War Ridden by Japan and Russia.

KOREA, now war-ridden, is the frowny corner of the eastern household where Nature, like a careless housemaid, has broomed the refuse sweepings of Asia. In that little, knobby peninsula of Cho-sen ("Land of the Morning Calm"), mixed and irreconcilable nationalities jostle one another, keeping alive the antagonisms of caste and kind. The son of the mikado is at daggers drawn with his celestial cousin, most of the Europeans are not on speaking terms, and the Korean himself cordially detests everybody, and is in turn distrusted by all parties.

Korea, in regard to its limited area (about two and a half times the size of Scotland), is more prolific in interne-cine dissension than any spot on the globe. In no more suitable area could be struck the first blows of the world's approaching Armageddon.

Situated at the elbow of that bone of contention, Manchuria, with the direct road to Peking stretching from the western gate of its capital, Seoul, it is not surprising to find the Mongolian leaven prominent in Korea. Originally conquered by Kora, a warrior of Fuyu, it acknowledged the suzerainty of China for several centuries, and annually paid tribute. The lines of the mikado, however, fell into desuetude, and was renewed only as late as ten years ago, when Japan first began to flirt with her cousin of the Yellow sea. Nevertheless, the Korean is not faithful to any blood-strain, and is as thoroughly cosmopolitan in physiognomy and



A STREET IN SEOUL.

character as he is in the instincts which, contrary to those of his neighbors, early led him to throw open wide his gates and welcome a heterogeneous commingling of races within his borders. You will find him facially resembling the Tibetan, the Mongol, the Hindu, and even the African, with sometimes the oval face cast of the Egyptian. The higher classes of the kingdom are not infrequently as fair as the Caucasian, with features distinctly of the Aryan type, the eyes straight and devoid altogether of the conventional "slant." The hair varies from deep black to light brown, but hair is totally unknown in Korea. Physically, the average Korean, though muscular, is undersized, and rarely attains to more than five foot six; the women seldom reach this.

Broadly speaking, it is hardly an exaggeration to say that the Koreans

as yet entered the official mind, and that pestilence has not mired there its abiding home is proof of a beneficent Providence. During the writer's sojourn some years ago it was not an unusual occurrence for the agile leopard (Korea's most common "wild-fowl") to scale one of the walls, and entering the nearest house, carry off a child in the darkness. To-day, however, we have changed all that; but Seoul's greatest need, from a western point of view, is still a decent hotel. The native dwelling house is an impossible try to all but a salamander. The flooring, in most cases, is composed of neatly-jointed flat stones, over which mats are laid. Underneath is a hollow space, in which firewood is laid in bundles and lighted. The paper doors are then slid into their grooves, excluding all air, and soon you find yourself in a Turkish bath. The average new-comer in the way of the Koreans has a far keener sense of humor than the Chinese or the Japanese. But in childish superstition of every conceivable kind the Cho-Sens are the worst of rivals. The religion is largely animism; serpents, as in India, are reverently worshipped, and the country is overrun by astrologers, magicians and fortune tellers.

BERNARD ESPINASSE.

SWISS CITIZENSHIP.

How the Native Born Can Be Relieved of His Military Duties.

The vast number of Swiss watch-makers who have taken up their abode in this country will no doubt be interested, says the Jeweler's Circular, in the following warning to Swiss-Americans returning to Switzerland, by Consul A. Lieberknecht, Zurich, Switzerland.

"The attention of students and others intending to remain for any length of time in Switzerland is called to the necessity of providing themselves with passports. Many naturalized American citizens labor under a misapprehension as to their old and new citizenship rights and responsibilities. They return to Switzerland with naturalization papers or passports, only to find themselves Swiss citizens again.

"In this country a person never loses his citizenship, no matter how long he may absent himself, unless he goes through certain necessary formalities. If he returns and is owing a military tax, he is compelled to pay the same in spite of the fact that he is an American citizen. The only way to be released from old responsibilities is by making a written request to his home community for such release, submitting proof at the same time that he has acquired American citizenship."

It Would Seem So.

"Say, pa," queried little Johnny Bumpernickle, "what's a flying machine?"

seeing for a whole twelvemonth, settled in a most primitive fashion, and often half the town is drawn into the brawl. The creditor, catching his debtor abroad, may thump and pound him to his heart's content, and no one may interfere. For 14 days a veritable pandemonium reigns, and as a method of "clearing the air" it is certainly not without interest for the spectator.

Seoul, the capital (generally and incorrectly spelt Seoul by the westerners) on the Hang Kang river, is an untidy, ill-built city, surrounded by 20-foot walls. The crevasse system, common to feudal England, still prevails as in most Korean towns. A great bell is rung at sunset, and the gates are immediately closed, not to be reopened until the following sunrise. No lights may then be carried in the streets, and no one may go in or out of the city, with one rather startling exception. All funerals, by immemorial custom, take place only at night, and for this purpose there is a special exit called "The Gate of the Dead." Between the hours of sunset and dawn, no male is allowed to be abroad in the streets; these hours are sacred to the women, and constitute their only privilege. They usually employ the time in paying visits. Up to a few years ago any man who was found on the streets after dark was whipped, but since the Europeans have introduced their own customs the entire system is in danger of revolution.

Seoul is one of the filthiest and worst-kept towns to be found in all the east. The idea of drainage has not



A STREET IN SEOUL.

as yet entered the official mind, and that pestilence has not mired there its abiding home is proof of a beneficent Providence. During the writer's sojourn some years ago it was not an unusual occurrence for the agile leopard (Korea's most common "wild-fowl") to scale one of the walls, and entering the nearest house, carry off a child in the darkness. To-day, however, we have changed all that; but Seoul's greatest need, from a western point of view, is still a decent hotel. The native dwelling house is an impossible try to all but a salamander. The flooring, in most cases, is composed of neatly-jointed flat stones, over which mats are laid. Underneath is a hollow space, in which firewood is laid in bundles and lighted. The paper doors are then slid into their grooves, excluding all air, and soon you find yourself in a Turkish bath. The average new-comer in the way of the Koreans has a far keener sense of humor than the Chinese or the Japanese. But in childish superstition of every conceivable kind the Cho-Sens are the worst of rivals. The religion is largely animism; serpents, as in India, are reverently worshipped, and the country is overrun by astrologers, magicians and fortune tellers.

BERNARD ESPINASSE.

SWISS CITIZENSHIP.

How the Native