

JAPANESE SANITATION

Work of Army Medical Corps Described by Dr. Seaman.

LAXITY OF CZAR'S OFFICIALS

Former Surgeon in the United States Volunteers Tells How Russia Prepared for the War.

Dr. Louis L. Seaman of New York city, who was a major and surgeon in the United States volunteers during the war with Spain, delivered an address before the international congress of military surgeons at its third day's session in St. Louis the other day on his recent observations of Japanese sanitary and surgical methods in the war with Russia. Speaking first of the Red Cross hospitals, he said: "We found the military Red Cross and university hospitals conducted on broad, up-to-date principles, the operating rooms being supplied and fitted up with the latest devices for antiseptic procedure. Fresh air is appreciated at its full value, and liberal facilities are afforded for sunshine and outdoor recreation. Up to July 1 only about 1,100 wounded and no medical cases had reached Tokyo, mostly from the base hospital at Hiroshima, which was continually sending large numbers to other divisional hospitals, to make room for fresh ones from the front. When I tell you that of more than a thousand wounded received in Tokyo prior to July 1 not one had died, and that every one was making progress in the wards presented a favorable prognosis, you can appreciate the admirable work that is being accomplished there. "Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the medical department of the army and navy for their splendid preparatory work in this war. The Japanese are the first to recognize the true value of an army medical corps. Care of the sick and wounded consumes but a small part of their time. The solu-

tion of the greater problem, preserving the health and fighting value of the army in the field—by preventing disease, by careful supervision of the smallest details of subsisting, clothing and sheltering the units—is their first and most important duty. Their capacity for detail is something phenomenal. Nothing seems too small to escape their vigilance, and every where—in the field with the scouts or in the base hospitals at home—the one great prevailing idea is the prevention of disease. The medical officer is omnipresent. You will find him in count less places. He is as much at the front as in the rear. He is with the first screen of scouts, with his microscope and chemicals, testing and labeling wells so the army to follow shall drink no contaminated water. When the scouts reach a town he immediately institutes a thorough examination of its sanitary condition, and if contagion or infection is found he quarantines and places a guard around the dangerous district. Notices are posted, so the approaching column is warned, and no soldiers are billeted where danger exists. Microscopic blood tests are made in all fever cases, and bacteriological experts fully equipped form part of the staff of every divisional headquarters. "The medical officer also accompanies foraging parties and with the commissariat officers samples the various food, fruits and vegetables sold by the natives along the line of march long before the arrival of the army. If the food is tainted or the fruit overripe or the water requires boiling notice is posted to that effect, and such is the respect and discipline of every soldier from commanding officer to the file in the ranks that obedience to its order is absolute. "The medical officer is also found in camp, lecturing the men on sanitation and the hundred and one details of personal hygiene—how to cook, to eat and when not to drink, to bathe and even to the direction of the paring and cleansing of the finger nails to prevent danger from bacteria. Long before the outbreak of hostilities he was with the advance agents of the army testing provisions that were being collected for troops that were to follow, and as a consequence of these precautions he is not now found treating thousands of cases of intestinal diseases, diarrhoea or dysentery, contagion and fevers that follow improper subsistence and neglected sanitation. "In illustration of the divergent ways in which Russia and Japan prepared for the war Dr. Seaman said: "A distinguished Japanese officer, when discussing with me the subject of Russia's overwhelming numbers, said: 'Yes, we are prepared for that.

Russia may be able to place 2,000,000 men in the field. We can furnish 500,000. You know in every war four men die of disease for every one who falls from bullets. That will be the position of Russia in this war. We propose to eliminate disease as a factor. Every man who dies in our army must fall on the field of battle. In this way we shall neutralize the superiority of Russian numbers and stand on a comparatively equal footing. "Compare this with the attitude of Russian officials in the far east as stated by Captain Gunderson, Russian commander of the steamship Unson, wrecked off the Miaoan Islands last August as she was attempting to run the blockade at Port Arthur. I was on that wreck three days in company with my friend, Captain Boyd, Tenth United States cavalry, and Captain Gunderson repeatedly assured us that no one in Russia had any idea Japan really intended war. As an evidence he cited a conversation with his brother, who is the Russian surgeon general at Vladivostok and who said: 'Oh, there will be no war! If Russia expected war I should be the first to know it, so my hospital could be in readiness. As it is, I have never seen so short of supplies as I am today. There will be no war. "That night Admiral Togo torpedoed the Russian squadron and practically closed Port Arthur to the outside world. "What was true of the Russian medical corps was equally true of every branch of the Russian service in Manchuria. 'There will be no war,' echoed the newly arrived officers, and the carnival of revelry that has marked the Muscovite invasion since 1898 was intensified by added numbers. Arriving trains that should have been crowded with men and munitions of war brought each a full complement of the demimonde and vodka. "The thousands of these creatures and the tens of thousands of cases of vodka that passed over the Siberian railway in place of food and equipment must have horrified even the gentle Verostehin, familiar as he was with war, in its most brutal and bestial aspects. Had he lived to portray recent scenes in Manchuria he could have revealed to the victimized suffering masses at home a perfect nightmare of debauchery, apathy and criminal carelessness. His historic picture of a battlefield in the Russo-Turkish war, with the dead and dying soldiers lying bleeding in the distance, while in the foreground the Russian headquarters were strewn with empty champagne bottles and the rags of bar lots, had its counterpart in scenes that greeted the eyes of the observer at Port Arthur. Newchwang and Vladivostok. "Wine, women and song were certainly the undoing of Russia, where a beauty and a bottle were the highest ambition of its officers—from general to corporal. Sodom and Gomorrah—the current synonyms of Port Arthur and Vladivostok in the orient—were temples of virtue in comparison to the debauchery, licentiousness, flagrant immorality and openly flouted vice recently practiced in those unhappy cities. "This was Russia's preparation for war. "But if the bloody conflict now waging serves to awaken her from her torpid nightmare and brings about her moral regeneration (and nothing less than such a catastrophe can do it), then civilization will ultimately be promoted, and the masses of suffering humanity in that grand country will come in some measure by their own."

THE BALTIC SEA FLEET

W. E. Curtis Tells of Dangers Besetting Russia's Squadron

CREWS GREEN; WATCHFUL

Enemy - Japanese Torpedo Boats Lying Off African Coast, It Is Believed - Weak Points of the Armada.

The Baltic fleet, which the Russian government has been working so hard upon ever since the beginning of the war and which started its long voyage by firing on British fishing boats in the North sea, has been delayed for months by the discovery of defects in the vessels, by the necessity of training the crews and by accidents which are always occurring on new and untried ships, says William E. Curtis, the special correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald at Washington. Naval experts consider it an exceedingly risky thing, merely from a mechanical standpoint alone, to start this great fleet on so long a cruise, because no harbor of refuge is open to it, and it has no place to go when it gets to the far east. By the middle of November Vladivostok, Russia's only harbor in the east, will be frozen up, and even if the fleet should reach there safely not a ship could enter before next May. It is too late to rescue Port Arthur. Under the most favorable circumstances, without accident or detention, it would take at least sixty days for the fleet to get there, and that would be nearly mid-winter. Of the thirty-seven ships in the fleet more than half are entirely new. They have been constructed and fitted out in great haste, and many defects are to be expected. Furthermore, the crews are green and inexperienced. Most of the engineers and machinists are untried, and very few, if any, of the men on board have ever participated in a battle, although, as has been demonstrated in every emergency, the sailors and soldiers are both great fighters. The Baltic fleet is composed of the following vessels:

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THE TIMES' DAILY SHORT STORY

THE DESERTED HOUSE

(Original)

A light far away in the valley shone blood red in a background of darkest green. Used, as I had been for weeks, to the uninhabited forest where I had been hunting, I wondered what could cause fire where there were no human beings to kindle it. Then I thought it a burning building. Suddenly it occurred to me that it was the red October sun shining on window glass. I had not slept in a house since setting out on my hunting trip, nor had I exchanged a word with man or woman. I was tired and feverish. My bones ached, my skin was dry, and my pulse beat high. I would go to the house, where some kind woodsman would give me a bed. Half an hour later I came to the house I sought. It was a neat cottage, surrounded by a fence inclosing half an acre of ground. The twilight was near gone, but enough was left to show that nothing grew in the garden, nor was there animal or fowl on the place. No lamp was lighted within. Indeed, the closing of most of the shutters denoted that there were no occupants. Moving the slats of the blinds so that I could look into the living room, I made out in the dim light that it was furnished. What tempted me most was a heap of logs resting on andirons in the fireplace, beside which a comfortable lounge stood ready to receive my worn body. It was not difficult to effect an entrance. All I had to do was to break a pane of glass, put in my hand, unlock the catch and throw up the sash. I did so and, crawling in, inspected every room in the house. Though it was completely furnished, the closets and bureaus were empty. There were some supplies in the larder, but they had evidently been there a long while. Lighting the fire in the living room, I drew the lounge directly before it and lay down. The crackling of the wood, the genial warmth—indeed, all the surroundings—doubly appreciated by one who had slept so long sheltered only by heaven's dome, caused me in a measure to forget my pain, and I sank to sleep. "Tom!" The word sounded like a woman's wail. Starting up, I looked about for the speaker; but, seeing no one, I lay down, thinking I had dreamed. But sleep did not come again. I turned my face to the fire, now a heap of glowing embers, emitting a flickering flame, and gave myself up to deliberating whether the voice I had heard was real. Happening to turn my eyes to-

THE TIMES' DAILY SHORT STORY

SMELT WAISTCOATS FOR MEN

I notice a fashion among the ultra smart, well dressed men, who have their white waistcoats for evening dress cut very low, right to the bottom of the shirt front, and then fastened with two buttons, which are generally jeweled, the ends of the waistcoats coming in long points, says the London correspondent of the New York Herald. The rolled revers of the waistcoats are not ironed flat back, but form quite a turnover in the old fashioned style worn by Count d'Orsay. Of course the vest demands perfect cutting and perfect washing, and then the effect is extremely smart. There is a tendency, too, toward the use of two studs instead of one.

VENICE'S NEW CAMPANILE

Work on the new campanile at Venice is being pushed as much as possible, and it is hoped that the entire structure will be completed by the spring of 1906, says the New York Tribune. Examination of the remains of the fallen tower proved that the bricks had been used for various purposes at a previous stage in arches, fortifications, tops of walls, towers, bridges, etc. The most important part was that they were not Venetian, but Roman, bricks.

SMALL FARM HOLDINGS

In England the best remedy for farm depopulation is held to be small farm holdings. It is stated that whenever a large farm is divided into small holdings the demand for the land usually far exceeds the supply.

A SKIN OF BEAUTY IS A JOY FOREVER

DR. T. FELIX GOURAUD'S ORIENTAL CREAM, OR MAGICAL BEAUTIFIER. Removes Tan, Pimples, Freckles, Moth Patches, Rash, and Skin Diseases, and every blemish on the face, and restores the natural beauty of the skin. It is a most valuable and safe preparation, and is used by the most distinguished beauticians of the world. It is sold in all drug stores, and is the only preparation of its kind. It is the only preparation of its kind. It is the only preparation of its kind.

AS OTHERS SEE US

Sketches of the American interviewer, by Tom Browne, the well known English cartoonist.

Harper's Weekly.

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