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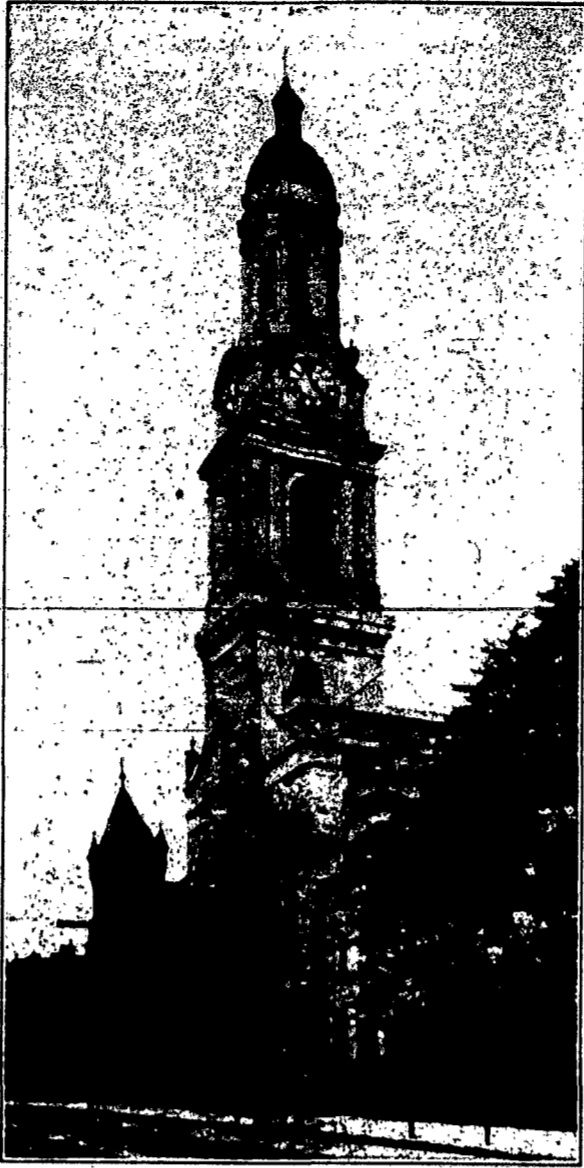
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HOW
To Tell What Soldiers' Colored Ribbons Specify

HAVE you wondered what those little bars of varicolored ribbons mean on American army officers' breasts?

These stripes, each one and three-eighths inches long, are symbols standing for the badges and medals the man is entitled to wear if he wants to weight himself down.

There are ten of these insignia recognized by the war department—two medals of honor, one a certificate of merit and the other badges showing the wearer took part in one of America's historic military campaigns.

The congressional medal of honor consists of white stars on a field of light blue silk. It is awarded only by congress and is the most coveted of all. It represents gallantry in action.

The certificate of merit badge is two red, white and blue bands separated by a thin band of white, the blue being outermost. This honor is conferred by the president.

The Philippine congressional medal has a blue band in the center, flanked by stripes of red, white and blue, the blue being outermost. It is worn by men who stayed in the war department service after the Spanish-American war to put down the Philippine insurrection.

The civil war badge is equal sized bands of blue and gray.

Indian wars—Bright red with narrow edges of deeper red.

Spanish campaign—Alternating stripes of yellow and white.

Philippine campaign—Blue band in center, flanked by narrower bands of red, blue edges.

Cuban occupation—Blue in center, flanked by narrow yellow stripes, then broader red stripes and blue borders.

Cuban pacification—Broad olive drab center, flanked by three narrow stripes of red, white and blue, the red outermost.

Chinese campaign, on the march to Peking—Broad band of yellow, with narrow borders of blue.

Ribbons for gallantry in action are worn furthest to the left, followed by campaign ribbons in chronological order.

TO GET RID OF ANTS.
How It Can Be Done Is Told by New York State College of Agriculture.

The garbage pail will wax leaner where food ravages by ants are prevented, says the New York State College of Agriculture in a recent bulletin which tells how to get rid of ants in houses.

"Ants may be poisoned," the bulletin says, "with a bait made according to the following formula: Sugar, one pound; arsenate of soda, one-third ounce; water, one quart. Dissolve the sugar in the water and add the arsenate of soda; boil, strain and allow it to cool. Small sponges should then be dipped in this liquid and placed where the ants are present. Care should be taken in preparing this strip and in safeguarding it afterward to prevent its poisoning human beings and domestic animals."

Arthur Gibson, assistant Dominion entomologist of Canada, has recently reported excellent results from the use of powdered sodium fluoride. This powder is distributed on the shelves and in cracks and crevices where the ants have their runways. It may be applied with a small puffer or dusted from a glass vial having a cheesecloth top.

ON BUYING FOOD.
How Money May Be Spent to the Best Advantage.

The following advice on how to get the best results from the money spent on food is issued by the New York Association For Improving the Condition of the Poor, and the Journal of the American Medical Association says it has rarely seen any that is "more specific, sane and clearly understandable."

These are the rules:
First.—Spend from one-fourth to one-third of your food money for bread, cereals, macaroni and rice.

Second.—Buy at least from a third to half a quart of milk a day for each member of the family.

Third.—Spend as much for vegetables and fruits together as you do for milk. If you use half a quart of milk for each member of the family this may not always be possible. Then spend as much for vegetables and fruit as a third of a quart of milk a day would amount to.

Fourth.—Spend not more for meat and eggs than for vegetables and fruits. Meat and eggs may be decreased with less harm than any of the other foods mentioned. The amount spent for meat may decrease as the amount spent for milk increases.

For a family of five with \$10 a week to spend on food this would work out about as follows:

Bread, cereals, rice, macaroni	\$3.50
1 1/2 quarts of milk at 12c a quart	2.04
Vegetables and fruits	1.75
Meat and eggs	1.75
Coffee, tea, sugar, salt, butter, etc.	.96
Total	\$10.00

ABOUT MIRRORS.
How Metals Are Deposited on Glass to Make Them.

A rapid and admirable method for depositing suitable metals on the surface of glass so as to produce mirrors, consists of decomposing the metal by means of a high potential electric current.

A metal plate is placed in juxtaposition with the glass plate which is to receive the coating. The two plates are then placed flat on a table beneath the receiver of an air pump suitable for producing a high degree of vacuum.

A small quantity of an inert gas, such as hydrogen, is introduced into the vacuum, and a high potential current is then turned on by means of the negative pole of a suitable source of electricity, this pole being attached to the metal plate. Thirty seconds' duration of this cathodic flow is sufficient to obtain a properly silvered mirror.

Besides silver, the metals gold, copper, platinum, nickel, iron, palladium and iridium may be employed.

How to Test Diamonds Before You Buy Them.

The public is frequently deceived in regard to the sale of jewelry and precious stones, and the authorities have issued a statement upon the accurate testing of diamonds.

When a diamond is quite clean and dry the following experiment should be tried. Place on the surface a tiny drop of water and then take a needle or pin and try to move the drop about. If the diamond is genuine the drop can be rolled about intact. On the other hand, where the gem is an imitation the water spreads directly it is touched with the needle point.

Another very good test may be carried out with a tumbler of water. Into this put the suspected article and examine its appearance. A real diamond will show up in the water with a startling clearness, and it can never be confounded with the water. On the other hand, the imitation looks indefinite, often invisible even.

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