

SOLDIERS ARE SUPERSTITIOUS

British War Museum Official Digs Up Some Interesting Information.

NEARLY ALL WEAR AMULETS

One Officer Carrying Charm Refuses to Reveal Its Nature for Fear of Bad Luck—Another Carries Piece of Coal.

London.—Certain interesting superstitions prevalent among British colonial troops at the front are described by Edward Lovett, an official of the Imperial War Museum at London, in the Morning Post. He says: "Many of the superstitions held by British soldiers are also held by our troops from overseas and by men of the allied forces. One day I happened to meet an Australian soldier who wore the figure 5 on the collar of his tunic. This 5 is known on the continent as the Pentad, and in Belgium the Fifth regiment is considered to be the lucky regiment. The logic of the Pentad is as follows: Figure 1 stands for God, absolutely alone. Figure 2 is the mind of God in operation as shown by the works of nature. Figure 3 represents man as the highest work of God. Taking, therefore, figure 1 as being unique, the figures 2 and 3, that is, God's work in the hands of man, equal 5, and this 5 is said to represent everything in this country we do not fully appreciate the meaning of the figure 5.

Lucky Australian Five. "To come back to our Australian soldier. He told me that he knew nothing of the Pentad, and he was rather inclined to sneer at luck in general. But he told me that his company, which was the Fifth, was very lucky, and day after day the men had many narrow escapes from death or wounds. The company, in fact, had lost only 15 men out of 180, while the Second company had lost a much larger proportion. He also told me that the No. 13 was considered by them a lucky number, and most of the men in the Fifth company, curiously enough, had 13 in their regimental numbers, his own number being 51327.

"On one occasion, after lecturing to some men from New Zealand and Australia, I was entertained for the night and put up in an officer's hut. Before turning in I chatted over the subject of folklore and soldiers' mascots with four officers. One of the officers told me that he carried a charm, and I said I would like to know what it was. It turned out to be simply a Swastika, which was apparently new to him, and he was glad to hear more about it. The second officer took from his pocket a small cross of grotesque form, which, he informed me, was his mascot. The third officer laughingly added, "Well, I need not show you mine, because it is only a piece of coal, wrapped in a little bag which I brought over from Australia." The fourth (and this to my astonishment, being the "highest possible") said, "I also have a mascot, but I regret to say that I don't intend to show it to you. I won't even tell you what it is, because it would spoil my luck." Nothing I could say would induce him to alter his decision. His was the most superstitious case of all.

The commonest charms among the soldiers of France and Belgium are made of aluminum and copper fragments of German shells. It is considered that if you wear a piece of an enemy's projectile it inoculates you against future danger from such sources. In Italy the men wore the kinds of charms and amulets which have been common in that country for many generations—even centuries, I may say. They consist chiefly of phallic emblems, and may be seen by thousands in the streets and markets of Naples especially.

What the Germans Wear. "I have a number of examples of German charms, some of which were taken from German prisoners, while others were collected by myself in Germany about 12 years ago. They are of a character you might expect from such a people, and consist largely of pigs, many of which, I regret to say, are grossly vulgar and offensive. Another German charm is a small model of a fungus, which is of natural blood-red color. This is really a phallic emblem. A third kind is a teetotum, the meaning of which is 'chance.' On the other hand, in the German navy, or what remains of it, they have rather a pretty charm. It consists of a small, cheap medal, bearing the figure of Christ, stilling the tempest, with the motto 'Safety in storms.' I gathered from several of my friends that the charms in common use by the Germans were generally small objects, such as I have mentioned, which had been presented to the wearers by their mothers or sisters, but in few cases had the charm any definite logical meaning.

The Scrap Book

PROOF OF MOON'S ROTATION

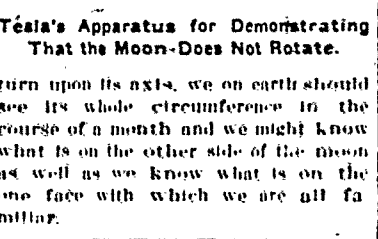
Nikola Tesla Shows Conclusively That Speculations as to Orb's Movement Are Wrong.

Nikola Tesla communicates to the Electrical Experimenter a striking proof of the fact that the moon does not rotate on its axis, but only seems to do so. Much of his article is extremely technical, involving the complex mathematical formulae of kinematics, but the following extract with the accompanying diagram, can be understood by anyone.

The diagram shows a system composed of eight balls (M) which are carried on spokes (S), radiating from a hub (H) rotatable around a central axis (O) in bearings supposed to be frictionless. The balls are not a part of the spokes, but are supported in pivots (P) which are nominally loose, but can be tightened so as to permit free turning or rigid fixing as desired. To facilitate observation the spokes are provided with radial marks and the lower halves of the balls are shaded.

Now, with the pivots loose, start the apparatus going in the clockwise direction marked by the black arrow, from position 1 to 8—and by the time it has made the whole circuit of 360 degrees, the pivots are tightened so that the balls are rigidly fixed to the spokes. It has revolved on its axis.

Now tighten the screws so that the balls no longer turn freely on their pivots, but become a solid part of the spoke. The side that is turned toward (O) at the beginning remains always turned toward (O), and an observer at (O) sees only one face of the ball in its revolution. Now the latter is exactly the case of the moon. If the moon were free to



Tesla's Apparatus for Demonstrating That the Moon Does Not Rotate.

USEFUL IN MINING DISASTERS

Wartime Device, Perfected by American Engineers, Has a Practical Purpose in Peace.

In the latter days of the war reports emanated from France of a mysterious listening device which "heard" sounds inaudible to the ear and located their source. The same mechanism developed to highly practical form by American engineers, has now been adopted by the United States bureau of mines for locating miners accidentally entombed, says Popular Mechanics magazine.

The instrument, called a "geophone," is practically a miniature seismograph. It is quite simple, consisting of an iron ring closed at each side by a diaphragm of mica. In the center is suspended by a bolt through the diaphragm, a disk of lead. A brass cup forms an air chamber at each end. To the center of one cup is attached a rubber tube with stethoscopic earpieces.

The metal case, set on end on the ground, vibrates to every shock; but the lead disk, held by inertia, does not. The resulting disturbance of the mica diaphragm is communicated to the earpieces, with extraordinary sensitive-ness.

With two instruments, one for each ear, the listener can accurately locate the source of the sound, and even identify the cause. In government tests pounding with a sledge was located through 1,150 feet of bituminous coal, other concussiona registering in proportion.

Misplaced Slang. A story that has a point worth thinking about was recently printed in the Louisville Courier-Journal. A boy had passed a fairly good examination, and his prospective employer told him to report the next morning. "I gotcha," said the boy. "But you haven't got the job yet," was the swift reply, "and what's more, you never will."

The Way It Ought to Be. "We've got it on record, anyhow." "What?" "The Germans admit that we forced them to sign the peace treaty. That ought to end their boasts that they weren't licked."

Sure Enough. "Nothing was ever settled by force," said the pacifist. "I don't know about that," replied a man in the audience. "Force seems to have brought Germany to time."

GETS JOBS FOR MANY

Statistics Show Uncle Sam's Record as Employment Agent.

During 18 Months' Period 10,000 Persons Were Placed Each Working Day.

Washington.—The record of Uncle Sam as employment agent is given in statistics made public by the department of labor, which cover the period from January, 1918, when the United States employment service was organized, to June 30, 1919, the end of the government's fiscal year.

Ten thousand persons were placed in jobs of all kinds each working day for the 18 months' period according to the report, without costing them or their employers a cent and at a cost to the whole country of but \$1.31 per placement. The saving in fees to the men and women directed to employment by Uncle Sam in co-operation with states and municipalities is estimated at not less than \$10,000,000.

From January 1, 1918, to June 30, 1919, 7,108,675 workers of all kinds were registered by the United States employment service for employment. If the total, 6,146,291 were referred to positions and 4,953,159 were reported placed. A worker is reported as placed only after the service has received assurance, oral or written, from either employer or employer of placement.

Placements were made of every kind of worker: from common and domestic laborers to high-salaried professional and technical workers. The recruiting and placing of farm labor has been one of the special features of the work of the federal employment service during the last year and a half.

The common labor placements were at 23 per cent of the total of slightly over 5,000,000 persons placed. The other 77 per cent consisted of skilled labor and other workers engaged in specific occupations.

The total figures of the work of the United States employment service divide into two groups: The "war period," from January, 1918, to the end of November, 1918; and the "readjustment period," from December, 1918, to the end of last June. The first period was primarily one of "man finding" and the second one of "job-finding."

During the war period 3,432,997 persons were registered for employment and 2,444,093 referred to jobs, the great majority of them in war industry. Returns from the workers and employers show that 2,698,887 were placed.

During the readjustment period the figures show that 3,432,997 persons were registered for employment, 3,092,391 referred to jobs and 2,256,272 were reported placed. Included in the registrations were 513,094 soldiers and sailors, of whom 314,147 were reported placed, but the returns on soldiers' placements are incomplete.

On his arrival Doctor Barton said: "I found the Christian populations in an extremely deplorable condition, hundreds of thousands of persons, who had been deported from their homes found themselves at various points in Turkey forced to live on charity. "The American commission for relief, in entire collaboration with the Greek and Armenian committees is doing everything possible to maintain the lives of the unfortunate."

PRODUCE STORAGE INCREASES Reports for This Year Show Gain of 40,000,000 Pounds in Butter, 1,378,000 Cases in Eggs.

Washington.—Large increases in the amounts of butter and eggs in cold storage this year, over totals a year ago, were reported by the agricultural department.

THE ROYAL WELCHERS.

They forced the game, they stacked the cards, They lost—and scorned to pay. All honest men expected it— The bad old Russian way. "The Day" they launched their Dance of Death The world was filled with woe, And now the paper must be paid, But not by them—oh, no!

No longer boastful do they feel, But mourn within their gates The millions that they hoped to steal From these United States. The whole world was to bow to them, And we the most of all. To high was their Iranian flight, And dead as were their fall.

So now speak out to meet your fate, You Hezretzians twain, You Levonoffs and Hinderburgs And Maccosnesses evain, Von Toppes and the whole vile crew, Stop! Stop! in your Prague And at the court of God and man Meet Justice face to face!" —Edward K. Kuller

AND ALL WAS BRIGHT AGAIN

Only for a Moment Did Misunderstanding Disturb the Happiness of the Fair Belinda.

For seventeen minutes by the clock they had been engaged, and during the first fourteen-seventeen minutes of that time Bob and Belinda had called each other two hundred and forty-seven endearing names—all different. But for the last three-seventeen

minutes of that period there had been a proud and sorrowful look upon Belinda's face, calculated to wither all thought—even of orange blossoms. The young man plunged his hands wildly through his locks.

"I can't imagine, dear," he said sadly, "what has come over you so suddenly. I simply asked if you were romantic when—"

"Oh Bob! Forgive me dear!" exclaimed Belinda, casting her arms affectionately about his neck. "I thought you asked me if I was rheumatic!"

NEVER TOO OLD TO MARRY

British Statistics Record the Entry into Connubial Bliss of a Man at the Age of Ninety-Two.

Some curious facts are revealed to the registrar general's report of births, marriages and deaths in 1917, says London Tit Bits.

Whereas most of the marriages used to take place in July, August and September, the favorite months now are October, November and December. Widows remarry in great numbers. Although young war widows affected the figures, it is clear that the war was not wholly responsible for the total to increase in 1912. Widowers, too, show an increasing tendency to take the second wives.

The youngest bachelor to marry was fifteen, and the youngest spinster, fourteen. No fewer than 26 males married at the age of sixteen, and 389 at the age of seventeen. Twenty-six spinsters married at the age of fifteen, one of them to a widower; 157 women were sixteen when they married, and of 1,200 marrying at seventeen, 15 married widowers.

The earliest second marriage of a man was at the age of nineteen and three widows remarried at the age of eighteen. Of thirty-nine men married when they were turned eighty, only one, aged eighty-one, had never tasted the joy of matrimonial bliss previous to the rest being widowers; but out of nine women marrying beyond that age two were spinsters. The oldest man to be married was a widower of ninety-two, and the two oldest women were aged eighty-five, one a widow and one a spinster.

Mysterious Light. Even more mysterious than the gegenschein, the faint moonlight glow in the sky exactly opposite the sun, is a still less familiar luminous feature of the night. This is a shifting haze sometimes visible when the moon is absent. Prof. E. E. Barnard of the University of Chicago finds that it differs from ordinary auroral phenomena in appearance in all parts of the sky, and that it is not probably any form of cirrus or cirro-stratus cloud. It seems to be more or less self-luminous, the source of its light being unknown. It may be quite noticeable as a streaky luminous haze, sometimes appears in broad sheets, and seems sometimes to be absent for several years, though at other times there is a great deal of it. It drifts easterly over the stars, remaining visible with a faint, steady light for a considerable time.

Carrying Alaska Mail. It takes the dog-sled mail to get through. Alaskan huskies may not start out at 80 miles an hour, like Atlantic fliers, but they always arrive, though terrific blizzards may intervene between one post office and the next. In the last two and a half months they completed their 1,900-mile route—the length of the Mackenzie river—from Fort McMurray in Alberta to the terminus, 40 miles south of the Arctic coast, and—if they came in 15 days late they did not once turn back.—New York Post.

Record Diamond Found. Vice Consul Samuel W. Honaker writes from Johannesburg, South Africa, that a local publication reports the finding of a magnificent soft blue-white diamond weighing 388 1/4 carats in the Jagersfontein mine in the Orange Free State. It is stated that the stone promises to become one of the historic gems of the diamond fields.

JEWS IN SERBIA IN BAD PLIGHT

Economic Ruin and Epidemics Have Fallen to Their Lot in Balkans.

BULGARIAN OUTLOOK BETTER

Investigator Urges Shipments of Food and Clothing to Roumania—Fund of \$35,000,000 Being Sought in United States.

New York.—Reports of the condition of Jews in the Balkan countries, as made to the American Jewish Relief committee by its investigators abroad show that economic ruin, epidemics of typhus, tuberculosis, and other diseases have fallen to the lot of Balkan Jews to an extent equal to that suffered by their co-religionists in other war-torn countries, but that political and religious repressive measures have been lacking.

The first detailed account of the situation in Serbia in many months is from Dr. Isaac Alcalay, chief rabbi of Serbia, with headquarters in Belgrade. He said Belgrade was still without regular communication with the provinces, because the railroads and bridges destroyed by the Austrians have not been restored.

"During the war," he wrote, "Jews in Belgrade suffered proportionately more than the rest of the population. Most of their habitations were exposed to gunfire throughout the 15 months that the city was under bombardment. Almost all homes are destroyed. The Jewish population of the city, formerly 8,000, now numbers no more than 4,500. The number is being increased daily by returning refugees. Many men are still with the colors.

Have Suffered Terribly. "Economically, the Serbian Jews have suffered terribly. Because of the uncertain political situation, all regular commerce is impossible, and it is difficult for Jewish citizens to improve their condition. This has deprived institutions of financial aid from the native population. Jewish schools are totally destroyed and the children cannot be educated.

"Such a situation is unfortunate, for the war has brought us new duties. The Jews of old Serbia took a very active part in the Balkan wars and in the world war. The years of fighting have deprived more than 400 families of their bread winners. These people have to be helped.

In Bulgaria, according to a report from Miss Hetty Goldmann of this city, the condition of the Jews is same, what better than in Serbia. Poverty is not so widespread, nor are health conditions so bad.

The families of Jewish residents receive allotments ranging from 45 to 70 levas a month, according to the size of the family. Recently the maximum was raised to 90 levas to meet the rising cost of living. The pensions will be continued for widows and orphans.

Bulgarian Jews are able to meet the needs of their own poor, but they have recently been confronted with a new responsibility. Roumanian Jews are seeking refuge in Bulgaria, and they need to know what to do with them. There is no work, even for skilled-artisans.

"A soup kitchen is being run for these people of Sophia, but many are desperate. An allotment from our American Jewish relief fund must be made to care for them."

In Roumanian there is need of clothing and staple foods. It was Miss Goldmann who made the investigation in this country also.

Clothing Greatest Need. "The people needed clothing above everything else," her report reads. "Almost everybody is shabby, and a large percentage of the poor are practically without clothing. I went into many homes where the inmates had on mere rags or were huddled in torn blankets of sackling.

"The second greatest need is for staple foods, such as dry beans, peas, rice, vegetables, fats and the like. Such supplies as are to be had are sold at exorbitant prices. American Jewish relief committees should send clothing and food for about 35,000 persons. Only if this is done will they have protection against the hardships of next winter.

"I was painfully impressed by the number of sick in Roumania. In Bucharest, out of a Jewish population of 15,000 there was an average of eight funerals a day last winter. A large percentage of typhus cases in Bucharest and Jassy have been among Jews. The lack of clothing, especially of clean underwear, has been a contributing cause. The inability to obtain fuel made families huddle in their rooms. Some did not go outside their homes practically all winter."

Machinery for the effective distribution of relief in the Balkan countries is in operation. More than \$200,000 worth of supplies, including several tons of kosher meat, was sent from New York late in July to Constantza, Roumania. The American Jewish relief committee, under the chairmanship of Louis Marshall, plans to continue regular shipments of this kind to the Balkans and to Poland, Galicia, Czechoslovakia, and the other countries.

For this purpose a fund of \$35,000,000 is being sought in the United States this year.

Foolish Old Customs Survive. St. Olav's Grammar school, once worth \$150, is now valued at \$25,000, but the rent is still a bunch of roses. The ancient city of Chichester must provide a string for the king's "cross bow" while the lord of Bryanston, in Dorset, must provide a boy with a stringless bow and unfeathered arrow, whenever the king makes war on Wales. The tenant at Bradley, Great Wood, near Grimsby, must pay the mayor of Grimsby a wild boar, or its equivalent in cash, yearly.—London Times.

Whiskers Explained. The early Jews were literally long on whiskers and made good use of them. The Jew's beard was a sort of standing notice to the world concerning his state of mind. If everything was propitious—wife and children well and business good—his beard was combed out and perhaps oiled. But if death had entered his family, his beard was a mere tangled mass of hair. The condition of the whiskers also indicated the existence of other emotions.

The Braganza Diamond. The Braganza diamond is a great mystery. Very few people have ever been allowed the privilege of looking at it, and of these few some are of the opinion it is not a diamond at all, but merely a wonderful specimen of white topaz. At any rate, it is generally conceded to be a diamond and is considered the jewel supreme of the crown jewels of the late reigning house of Portugal, the ancestral family of the duke of Braganza.

Figures of Speech. An old lady, after returning from a visit to "the zoo" announced that she "always did enjoy a visit to the Theological Gardens." A servant girl, describing her master's illness, explained that the "doctors held a consultation and found that it was something eternal," and a lady recently remarked that when she was in Italy she "saw many people in the garbage of monks with tonsils on the heads."

Clever Willie. Glancing hastily over the pages of Willie Johnson's examination papers, the teacher was delighted to see that not one of the questions remained unanswered. But upon a more careful scrutiny her pride took a tumble. After nine of the twelve questions Willie had written politely, "I am sorry that this is a subject on which I have no information."

Price of Happiness. No man can be happy when he despises his own acts, when he has any consciousness of wrong, whether of motive or act. No man can be happy when he harbors thoughts of revenge, jealousy, envy or hatred. He must have a clean heart and a clean conscience, or no amount of money or excitement can make him happy.—Exchange.

Another Editor in Bad. According to the Wichita Eagle, an editor in a near-by town has moved his press over against the door and is having his meals sent in at the window since he let this get by in a society item: "Mrs. Cat's popularity is evidenced by her many friends in this vicinity."—Kansas City Star.

Almost Forgotten. The bride and bridegroom were just about to say "I will" when the bride's mother dashed wildly from the room, and returned, running up the aisle to the bride, and pushed the bridal bouquet into the bride's hands. In the excitement of the occasion the flowers had been forgotten.

Cleans Bronze. Genuine bronzes may be washed with good soapuds and a sponge or rag and wiped dry with a soft flannel cloth or chamolis. Dirt and stains may first be removed with a flannel cloth moistened in sweet oil. Afterward polish the bronzes with flannel or chamolis.

Powerful "Fourth Estate." The "fourth estate" is the newspaper press. It is so designated humorously as a distinct power in the state. Formerly the phrase designated the persons constituting the lowest and unrepresented classes of society, as distinguished from the commons.

Change Wrought by Time. The old-fashioned boy who used to be tickled to death when his daddy gave him a nickel to spend now has a small boy who doesn't know that there are any coins below the half dollar.

Must Take a Present. The woman who used to look upon a wedding invitation as a social victory now has a daughter who includes such things in the list of monthly bills.—Dallas News.

Outclassed. Wife—"That Mrs. Brown must be an awful gossip. I never can tell her anything but what she's heard it before."—Blighty (London).

Optimistic Thought. There is naught in this wide world like sympathy.