WARLESS HORRIBLE THAN NOW

Effect of Improved Machinery and Modern Surgery--Long Range Bullets More Humane Than Those of

Old-Hand-to-Hand Conflicts Relegated to Barba-

rians of the Past-Interesting Subject Discussed.

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Powder has spoken. It rests with that | once had to amputation of the leg. Ingreat agent now to put an end to the jury to the benes of the foot led to similar consequences. Now, neither the Anglo-Boer conflict. A signature of knife nor the saw comes into use, exblood will alone settle the proposed sugcept in very rare cases. It is aseptics gestion to intervene, says the Cincinand antiseptics which allow of seriously wounded soldiers being preserved from nati Enquirer.

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One can only deplore this struggle, which prings into play so many human vices and destroys so many lives. It causes joy to the monstrous but happisurgeon decides to amputate. ly scarce apologists of war, under the fellacious pretext that wars are regeneratory, it plunges into consternation and too often into mourning those who to not think men were created to detest and destroy one another.

Each people seeks to do better than Its neighbor. It is a constant tendency, a regular game with a record to beat. In 1866 the Germans held the record with the needle gun, but this record has often been beaten since. In 1870 they held the record for superiority in numbers, thanks to which France was suddenly invaded. In the days of Napoleon victory was

largely a matter of speed. So it may be said that the great captain won his battles with his soldiers' legs. Today, when railways have made the concentration of troops rapid and easy, the god of battles does not favor as much as at the beginning of the century those who arrive first on the field of action. And this because a new factor has made its appearance-the rapidity, precision and efficaciousness of fire.

HOW VICTORIES WERE WON.

The victors of Austerlitz, Jena and Wagram were only armed with rudimentary flint guns, and smooth bores of which took only a round leaden bul-let, carrying from 60 to 80 meters. And, even then, rain had only to fall during the battle to silence their weapons, since, if the powder in the pans was wet it would not light by the spark from the flint. As for the cannon, they dis-charged solid shot and bombs, but not to any great distance. After 100 years nearly all the condi-

tions which govern the art of war are changed. Hand-to-hand fighting is a mere accident; engagements begin at a distance of several kilometers, and with weapons so perfect that the two sides hit without seeing each other, and generally produce wounds sufficient to stop a man's advance and put him hors de combat without seriously endangering his life.

For the last twenty years ballistics have progressed continuously, and fire-arms have undergone, and are continually undergoing, fresh improvements. The modern weapon, at once more complicated in its structure and more simple in its use, has the enormous advantage over the old of a more powerful fire and perforation, more simple, more sure and more rapid, which requires of the shooters a minimum of in-Projectiles have been fitted with metal casing which enables them to be made longer. The use of smokeless powders of great explosive power has extended. Lastly, as a consequence of recent researches, it has been possible to reduce the caliber of weapons, thus reducing the weight of the rifle and projectiles to a minimum, and consequently enabling each marksman to carry a larger number of cartridges.

DESERET EVENING NEWS: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1899.

the cleaning with soap, alcohol and ether of the parts to be operated upon, the heating of 130 degrees or 140 degrees centigrade of the instruments and the bandages, the sterilization of the hands of the operator with soap and prolonger immersions in antiseptic liquids, the employment of absorbent ligatures, the minute coaptation on the wound and the exact suture of its edges. The consequence is a rapid local recovery, so much so that in 12 or 15 days the wound of an amputated thigh is healed, which formerly was a matter of months, if indeed, no fatal results

supervened. During the Crimean war of 1854-55 it broke out at the same time as the cholera, scurvy and typhus, and showed a high degree of severity. It was ob-served in the Chersonese, in Constantinople and on the transport bringing the wounded from the Crimea to Constan-tinople and from Constantinople to France. It made equal ravages among the English and Russian wounded.

During the war in Italy in 1859 it reappeared in the Italian, Austrian and French hospitals. It broke out durcomplications. The preservation of limbs is the general rule, and it is only when everything else fails, when every-thing is shattered or torn off, that the ing the War of Secession, in Germany during the wars of 1864 and 1866, and finally during the campaign of 1870-71.

The attention of European nations to

Enquirer.

LYDDITE GUNS THAT SEARCHED BOER TRENCHES.



PIGEONS PROVE THEIR VALUE. More Certain in Warfare Than Wireless Telegraphy-Birds Used Are Not Actually of the "Carrier" Species -Russian Military Department Was the First to Con-

sider These Messengers.

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The fact that General White managed | were able to communicate with their recently to send a dispatch from the friends in the country. The method adopted for the conveyance of these beleaguered town of Ladysmith to messages in small space so as not to Durban by means of carrier pigeons | impede the birds in their flight was most ingenious. The messages were not allowed to exceed 20 words, and once more demonstrates the service that these birds may be in time of war these were photographed in microscopic characters on collodion films, each of even in these days of telegraphy, wirewhich bore some hundreds of these messages, and as each pigeon could less and otherwise, says the Cincinnati easily carry 10 or 12 films, about 20,000 or 30,000 messages could be sent at once, and of these photographic enlargements were made when the birds arrived at their destination and distributed among those for whom they were intended

RUSSIA BEGAN IT.

The first country to seriously turn its attention to the utility of pigeons in warfare was Russia, and experiments were made by a section of the Russian engineers in training birds and flying them from fortress to fortress. Other states quickly followed sult, but it was in Germany that the systematic training of these birds was first com-menced on a large scale. Today, a sum of nearly \$15,000 is annually set aside in the German army estimates for the purpose of the military pigeon post, and every frontier fortress is reported to be stocked with these birds, while all those owned by private individuals are carefully noted in the official records, so that call might be made upon them as required in time of

As was the case with the bicycle and many other innovations, Great Britain lagged behind her continental neighbors for many years in the matter of the training of pigeons for use in time of war, and it is only within the last few years that the intelligence department of the British war office has interested itself in this matter, and even now it is carried out in a more or less per-functory manner, it being considered that the birds would only be of service abroad. Many experiments have been carried out, however, by the naval authorities with regard to the use of these pigeons in maintaining communication between the fleets around the coast and the shore, and these have, on the whole, proved very satisfactory. In India the attention of military men has for some time past been devoted to the training of these birds, and especially has this been the case in South Africa, where their utility has just been demonstrated

NOT "CARRIER" PIGEONS.

It may be mentioned here that the pigeons used in this work are not carrier pigeons at all in the usual sense of the word, for those birds are really unsuited for the work, the chief birds employed being of the "homer" variety. While societies for the breeding and improvement of pigeons exist in all countries, it is Belgium which produces The messages to be sent by the birds are usually attached to them in one of two ways, either to the under portion of the tail fathers or to one of their legs, and by these means the birds can carry long messages without being unduly hampered by them. It is usual to send the same message by several birds, so that one, at least, is assured of reaching its destination. Previous to the car-riers being sent off they are confined in the dark for at least eight or ten hours, and are kept without food. When liber-ated the birds usually circle around their temporary home for some few moments in aimless fashion, and then set off in the direction of the place from which they have been brought. While these birds in Paris during the days of the siege, the inhabitants of the city speed is about a third of that.



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GOOD LONG RANGE WORK.

It is sufficient now to shoot in front of one to be a practically useful marks-man. As far back as at Saint- Privat in 1870 men were shot at 1,000 meters, and in 1878, at Plevna, the Turks, though very inexperienced, opened fire at distances of 1,500 and 2,000 meters. At the present time 1,500 meters is no longer a great distance, but a normal firing distance, especially in defense. The perforating power is such that it is manifested far beyond 2,000 meters. At a distance of 2,000 meters an 8mm. clously. The surgeon has all the time he needs, but his work must be irre-proachable.

bullet has still enough force to pass through a front rank man and wound the man in his rear when troops are drawn up two deep. At the average fighting distance two or three men may be wounded by the same bullet at that short distance, without saying anything of the greater thickness now given to works of fortification on the battle-field, a' single projectile would have force enough to go through four, five or six men. Thus, in Dahomey, it was ob-served that a bullet, after penetrating a tree forty-five centimeters in thickness, still went through five men.

These are astonishing facts which will not be seen in reality as often as some people say. For this to be the case it would be necessary not only that the bullet should undergo no deviation, after having passed through the first pens at least after the second, but also that its point should not be deformed Now Lagarde's experiments have proved that this happens in half the number of shots.

IN THE BULLET'S WAKE.

It is seen nowadays that the wounded are more numerous, but the killed much lewer. A supreme consolation lies in the fact that the wounded not only repeive less serious wounds, but they are surrounded with such immediate care that they more frequently recover their health. As a last analysis the wounded, though they are more numerous, show a lower mortality.

With the ballistic power of modern weapons men are hit at great distances. Under these conditions the bullet only passes through the tissues without tearing them, or perforates the bones without producing real sequestrum. And the dressing to be done is much more simple. It is sufficient to place at the orifices caused by the ingress and egress of the bullet pads of asepor antiseptic guaze kept in place by a bandage to see the wound become sicatrized. If the wounded man shows a little fever on the evening of his wound the dressing is taken off and the passage made by the bullet syringed with antiseptics to drive out the foreign bodies which cause the lever.

What happened of old? Many soldiers succumbed to slight wounds, carried off by complications which it was not known how to foresee or prevent. It is a very little thing not to touch the wound, but simply cover it with stuff from which all the germs have been removed. And if the wound is infected either by earth of by fragments of clothes, or from any other cause, the use of sterilized probes to sound the flesh, or asceptic bistouries to open it if necessary, and of antisep-tic liquids suffices to put matters right and to keep the wounded man from the danger of putrid infection, which used to make so many victims.

OPERATIONS LESS PAINFUL.

Supposing that it is a question of the shuttering of the knee by the bursting of a shell, or the comminutive fracture of a thigh, the present progress of surgery gives the patient more chances of recovery than of death. Formerly the lamb was sacrificed, and the opera-

For one whole day these guns threw terrible cordite missiles into une Boer position. Wherever these shells feff and burst they swept away men, horses, wagons and tents and put guns out of action. But even this awful fire could not make the Boers desert their trenches, for when later the British charged they were driven back.

It has even reappeared in more recent A surgeon had to possess an unusual degree of nerve to preserve the neces-sary calmness during an amputation wars, but in a less intense form, much more mild than at the beginning of the century or that of 1854-55. Hospital gan-grene is a microbian malady and gives made without anaesthetics. As a consequence the principal idea was speed in the carrying out of operations, with, to antiseptic treatment. way as a result, an unfavorable influence must be made against it unceasingon their success. The skill of this or that surgeon was legendary; today this A comparison of the surgical results

equality is relegated to the second or third place. There is no necessity to hury; chloroform allows the operator of wars in former days and those of the present time is all to the advantage of the latter. to proceed quietly, surely and effica-

COL. BADEN-POWELL AND HIS MILITARY KITES.

One of the foremost experts in the art of constructing and flying military kites for aerial observations is Colonel Baden-Powell, now closely besieged at Mateking by the Boers. At Aldershot over a year ago he built a series of kites, which, when flown in tandem fashion, were capable of lifting a man a hundred or two feet in the air. In one of the recent dispatches to a Lon. don paper it was reported that Colonel Baden-Powell employes his leisure mo-ments in directing his men in the conforcing back of the blood toward the base of the member by means of an struction of kites for military observations just as Cecil Rhodes in Kimberof the vital fluid, and allowing the sur-geon to operate "a see." Then there is ley is employing the men in roadbuild-ing. By means of the huge kites photo.

Accordingly, recoveries are very rap-

id; generally there is no suppuration, whatever may have been the condition

of the limb, while formerly they were very slow, even if death did not fol-

ADVANCED SURGERY HELPS.

The performance of an amputation resembles but little of that of former

times, though the cutting of the flesh and bone is necessarily the same. But

what was not done formerly was the

elastic band, thus preventing the flow

low

CLEANING UP THE BATTLEFIELD OF STORMBERG.



"homing" or "carrier" pigeons as an adjunct to their armies may be said to have first been excited in 1870, when, thanks to the existence of one or two Wat societies for the flying and training of

graph's of the enemy's position and in- | trenchments have been taken at various altitudes. These photographs have been of special importance in locating the Boer troops, and they have been obtained without any risk of life or limb. All that the bullets of the enemy can do is to cut the kite strings or smash the photographing apparatus that is sent up with the kites.

This employment of the military kite in a practical way during actual hostilities by such a recognized expert as Colonel Baden-Powell will largely decide its usefulness as a part of the equipment of an army. Time and again this clever officer has expressed a de-sire to make an actual test of his beloved kites in times of war, and circumstances could not have arranged matters more agreeably for him. With the Boer forces surounding him on every side, it has been a matter of the ry side, it has been a matter of the greatest importance for him to locate their strongest positions. That he has successfully accomplished this is evi-denced by the sorties which he has made several times that have taken the Boers by surprise. In the report of the "brilliant sortie made by Captain Fitz-Clarence upon the enemy's in. Fitz-Clarence upon the enemy's in-trenchments located by kite observations," the usefulness of this old-time plaything of our boyhoood days seems to be pretty well demonstrated. When Colonel Baden-Powell is released from Mafeking and cessation of hostilities gives him time to develop his theories ested by actual experience we will hear more of the military kite and its future mission in war.-Collier's Weekly.

THE WEAKNESS OF ENGLAND'S CASE AGAINST THE BOERS.

The so-called Transvaal question has been purely trumped up. There has been no real ground of dispute on Monthly Review of Reviews.

WILL WINSTON CHURCHILL BE CAPTURED AGAIN?

The soldier-correspondent who was captured and taken a prisoner to Pretoria by the Boers was thought to have forfeited his life by doing soldier work while posing as a non-combatant. The Boers, decided not to take harsh measures in his case, and held him a

him



Great Britain's part with President Kruger's government. England has demanded a variety of things relating to the internal administration of a country which had the fullest right to order its internal affairs according to its own preferences. Without acknowledging the right of England to

raise any questions as to internal taxation, naturalization, school administration, and the like, the Transvaal has nevertheless permitted itself to discuss such questions for several years, and has made very considerable concessions for the sake of avoiding, if possible, a conflict with an irresistibly powerful opponent. But Mr. Chamberlain, as British colonial secretary, has ingeniously changed his demands from time to time. Certain large stockmarket interests also have systematically maintained a propaganda for stir-ring up the English people. Their theme has been the suffering of British subjects in the gold-mining districts through the oppressive conduct of the Boer government. We have repeatedly Boer government, we have repeatedly discussed these alleged grievances and have pointed out their absurdity and their falsity. The British subjects in the Transvaal are there temporarily for the most part. They have never had the slightest idea of giving up their British citizenship and becoming naturalized subjects of the Transvaal Republic. Yet England for months had been preparing for war on a most elaborate scale, with no pretext that any one could give except that President Kruger was not willing to make the term of years requisite for naturalization quite as short as Mr. Chamber-





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apanied by the most horrible sufferings. At the present time the use of ether or chloroform renders the operation as easy for the operator as it is mainless for the pa-tient. The average traumatism necessitated a great use of the knife. For an open fracture of the tibia recourse was at

General Gatacre's retreat after his failure to take the Boer position left the plain strewn with wounded and dead men. The ambulance brigades were out for many hours gathering up the wounded and burying the dead. The scene pictured above is likely to be repeated hundreds of times before many days are over.



