

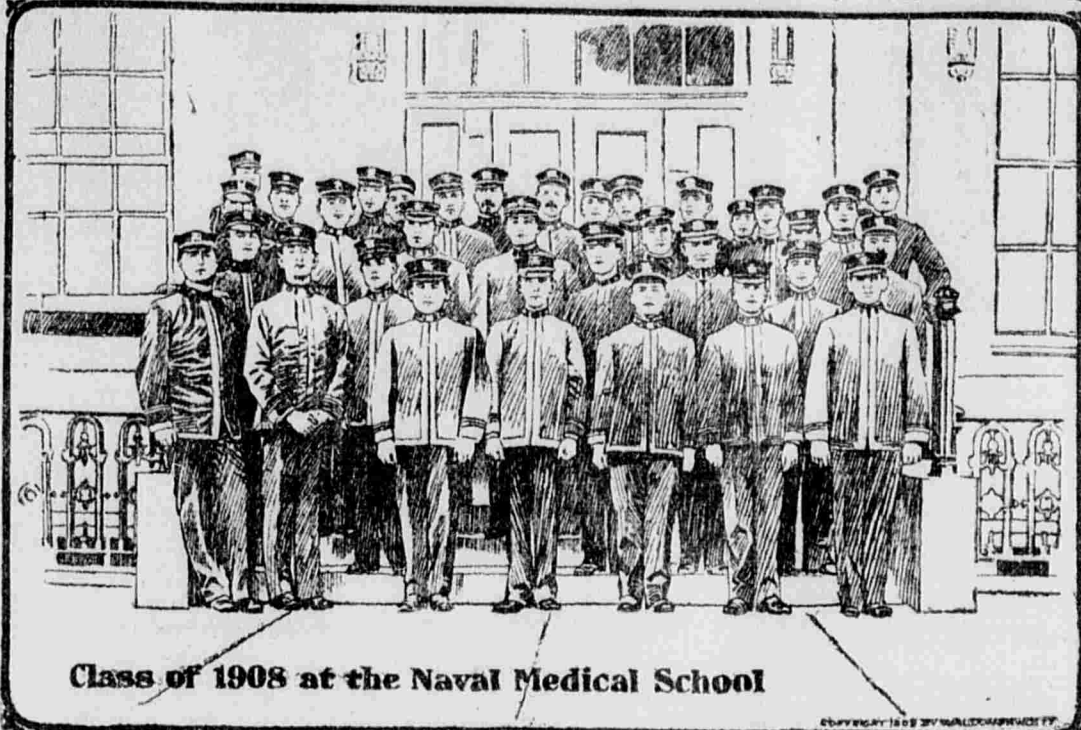
THE MAKING OF THE AMERICAN NAVAL SURGEON



Front of United States Medical School



President Wise of the Naval Medical School



Class of 1908 at the Naval Medical School

SURGEON GENERAL RIXEY of the United States navy is not content to be a mere figurehead. Ever since his appointment to the position he has manifested a determination to make his department stand out as a conspicuous example of a practical and productive government agency. It is his pet ambition to have in commission a fleet of hospital ships in command of surgeons instead of the officers.

Should the surgeon general's hope be realized there would arise a sudden and urgent demand for medical corps men who are endowed with executive ability as well as mere technical knowledge. That Dr. Rixey is confident that his plan will be adopted is evident from the remarkable activity which is now being shown in the Naval Medical school at Washington. This particular institution trains young officers of the medical corps just as the big school at Annapolis prepares line officers for the nation's sea service.

During the past few weeks the entire personnel of the medical school has been showing unusual enthusiasm. The interest began when Surgeon Stokes was appointed to the command of the hospital ship Relief, with the intimation from high authority that the Relief is but the first of a whole fleet of hospital ships. This was followed by the surgeon general's request for an appropriation from congress to provide a model hospital ship which shall surpass in its construction and equipment anything of the kind ever attempted. It is understood, too, that this model ship is to be officered by medical corps men, with perhaps a civilian sailing master with no function save to look after the vessel's navigation.

Boost From the President.

Until President Roosevelt by his recent action gave the navy doctors a boost into official prominence their school at the national capital received comparatively little attention from the general public. The government's two chief universities, at West Point and Annapolis, have long been the especial pets of the American public, but the fame of the medical school has expanded very little. Of course one of the reasons for this is to be found in its comparative size. Its graduating

classes have never numbered more than two score men, while those of the great government finishing schools are many times larger. Then, too, the school is of rather recent origin, having come into existence as late as 1902. The project had been agitated for many years, but nothing came of it until the Spanish-American war made it clear that something of the kind was of actual necessity.

The fact is that the present medical school owes its being to Surgeon General Rixey, the head of the medical corps, whose influence at headquarters is so potent that he was able to secure the appointment of a surgeon to the command of the Relief in spite of the protests of line officers and the resignation of Rear Admiral Brownson as chief of the bureau of navigation. Not only is this medical friend of the president responsible for the establishment of the school, but he has always taken the deepest interest in its development and has even placed his collection of

valuable instruments at the disposal of its faculty.

Peculiar to Its Kind.

In its system of training the Naval Medical school does not bear a marked resemblance to the Annapolis institution. At the latter school the average age of matriculants is seventeen years. For a period of four years they are taught all the rudiments of the naval profession, and after their graduation they round out the course with two years of practical work on a cruise. The Naval Medical school is really a postgraduate institution. Its pupils are supposed to have completed the usual study of the technicalities of their chosen profession before entering, and their work in Washington is to learn how to adapt their knowledge of medicine and surgery to the special field of sea service.

Now, Uncle Sam does not believe it to be necessary for him to take a hand in the preliminary education of those

who have an ambition to serve him on board the hospital ships. He knows there are plenty of young sawbones, well educated and enthusiasts in their profession, who have not yet made up their minds which special branch of professional work they will take up, and it is from this class that he expects to recruit his naval surgeons. In order successfully to pass the required entrance examination to the school an applicant must have taken the full course at an accredited medical college. Each student who is accepted is commissioned from the day he enters as an assistant surgeon, a rank corresponding to that of first lieutenant in the regular army. This entitles him to pay at the rate of \$1,760 a year and an extra allowance for quarters in case they are not provided.

Uncle Sam Generous.

Uncle Sam does not stop at this. In addition he takes recognition of the time the newly commissioned assistant

surgeon has devoted to his professional education in outside institutions and gives him credit at the very outset for five years of constructive service. In this respect he is put on an equality with graduates of Annapolis, whose time of naval service is computed from the moment they enter the academy. All naval officers are allowed 10 per cent additional pay for each period of five years' service until such bonus amounts to 40 per cent.

In this scheme to transform those who are already well equipped doctors into naval surgeons the curriculum, of course, is highly specialized. While it is true that many of the officers who are being trained at the school will spend much time at the seventeen naval hospitals in various parts of the country, it is never forgotten that actual sea service is the principal feature and practice effort is deemed the most important essential.

All things considered, it must be admitted that Uncle Sam, under the competent direction of Surgeon General Rixey and his assistants, has adopted the most feasible method of providing the naval service with competent surgeons. Surgeons are not made in a day. It is really a calling which requires much practice in order to arrive at any especial degree of efficiency. It would practically be out of the question to assign men who are only just out of the medical colleges to active service of the naval service with competent surgeons. It would, of course, be an excellent school for the recently licensed sawbones, but it might be a severe experience for the others.

What is due to the men who have enlisted in Uncle Sam's naval service is

that none but experienced surgeons shall be entrusted with their physical oversight, especially when they are afloat. It would be impossible to obtain enough qualified surgeons from the ranks of the profession at the present time. To the man who has found the opportunity to become a competent surgeon in general practice the pay of a member of the naval corps offers slight inducement. It is also true that in a majority of cases it would happen that when he had managed to acquire the necessary experience he would have arrived at an age that would have made him disinclined to undertake such active service. Thus it was that the government found it expedient to go into the business of making its own naval surgeons.

Naval Base Hospital.

The assistant surgeons who are being qualified at the Naval Medical school have an opportunity for a good deal of practical work in the running of the magnificent new hospital which serves as an adjunct to the medical institution. This fine and very complete structure was finished only a year ago, and it is designed to be the great naval base hospital of the United States. Plans have been drawn recently enlarging it to a capacity of 500 beds, together with the construction of new officers' quarters that will afford accommodations for an increased number of instructors and students.

The national legislature in 1902 created twenty-five additional vacancies in the medical corps and provided for a similar increase in the strength of the corps each year up to 1908. Whether the plans for further increases will be

continued beyond the present year cannot be predicted, but probably they will, in view of the number of new battleships and armored cruisers being placed in commission, and especially in such action likely in the event that the present scheme for a small fleet of hospital ships meets with congressional approval.

However, the administrative officials of the medical bureau at Washington are not nearly so apprehensive as they were about securing capable young doctors to fill any needed quota. The added opportunities open to officers of the medical corps and the enhanced prestige that has lately come to this branch of the service have combined to arouse interest among graduates of medical colleges that it is believed will assuredly prove productive of heavier enrollment.

JAMES R. BENTLEY

THE GRIMMEST EPITAPH.

What is the most terrible epitaph in existence? One of the grimmest is surely that on a stone which was set up a few years ago in the cemetery of Debreczin, eastern Hungary.

It reads as follows: "Here rest in the Lord Joseph Moritz, Sr., who died in his sixty-second year; he was shot by his son, Frau Joseph Moritz, who died in her forty-seventh year; she was shot by her daughter, Elizabeth Moritz, who died by her own hand in her seventeenth year, after shooting her mother, Joseph Moritz, who died in prison, aged twenty-seven; he had shot his father. May eternal mercy have pity on their poor, sinful souls!"

This memorial was erected by a local literary association, to which, it is said, the last of the ill-starred family left a sum of \$7,500 for the purpose.

ELECTRIC POWER FROM EELS.

A learned professor has discovered that the electric eel can really yield electric force. He maintains, after experimenting to this end, that a hundred eels will run a motor car for twenty-four hours, while 200,000 would carry a liner across the ocean. Most people, however, would prefer to put their trust in gasoline rather than eels. To say the least, a tank of hopping eels would assuredly be an uncomfortable item of motoring paraphernalia. The small boy who is always to be found in close proximity to a standing motor would find it additionally interesting when he could prod up the wriggling "motor power" with a stick, and if the eels were gradually abstracted en route by the facetiously inclined last state of the motorist would be worse than the first.

HINDOO PICKPOCKETS.

"The best pickpockets," said a detective, "are the Hindoos. You have to call them light foot as well as light fingered, for they can lift a watch or purse as easily with their feet as with their hands. Trained from childhood, these barefooted rascals are wonderfully skilful with their toes. This gives them a great advantage. A Hindoo in a crowd will stand with his arms ostentatiously folded and sneak with his foot the purse from your trousers pocket."

THE LAW AND LONGEVITY.

The most remarkable thing concerning Mr. Arthur Burrows, England's oldest barrister, who has just entered upon his ninety-sixth year, is that his longevity seems due in no small measure to hard work. For years he denied himself the pleasure of a day's holiday excepting on Sundays and even now may be seen three or four times a week at his law chambers in Lincoln's Inn. Followers of the simple life point with pride to Mr. Burrows, who is a foe to most forms of luxury. Of late years he has dispensed with tobacco and stimulants and retains good health on the plainest of food. And yet this wonderful old man, who has lived in five reigns and under seventeen prime ministers, can give lessons in walking to many younger ones and loves to watch cricket matches.

THE WICKER LIFEBOAT.

A life boat that has more than a right to commend it to the attention of the seafaring community has recently been constructed by C. J. F. de Vos, of Rotterdam. Its claims are essentially practical and there is nothing

about this Dutch invention to suggest the fantastic—a characteristic too often encountered in lifeboat patents.

In point of fact there is nothing unusual in the model favored by Mr. de Vos; it is in the adoption of a new material of construction that the value and interest of his invention lie. It's

hull is made of cane or plaited wicker work and the inventor, who is already well known in Holland for his marine auxiliary patents, claims for this new method of lifeboat building many advantages over other and older forms.

Its first and foremost advantage is obviously its practically unbreakable

character. This has really been put to a severe test in a collision which occurred on the river Maas some months ago between a Belgian sailing yacht and a Dutch motor boat. The violence of the collision was considerably mitigated by the fact that this wicker lifeboat lay between the two crafts, and

as it turned out acted as a sort of buffer, sustaining no other damage than the breaking of the mast and stays.

It is unsinkable, it has no rusting materials and therefore requires no paint. It is not liable to leakage, and in addition to being much lighter than ordinary wooden boats it has more

room for storing provisions and water. Finally, it costs less money than the usual type of boat.—Shipping World.

Expert Kodak Finishing.

Harry Shipley, Commercial Photographer, 151 South Main, second floor.

SUNDAY EXCURSIONS

Via D. & R. G., Sunday, May 17.

To Provo Canyon, 7:30 a. m. \$1.25

To Pharaoh's Glen, 8:15 a. m.50

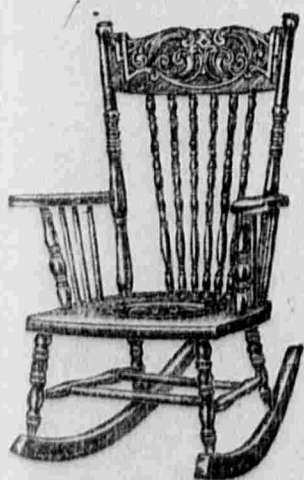
Return on regular trains.

One Week of Red Tag Clearance Sale at Madsen's

AFTER a two weeks' Clearance Sale we find a good many odds and ends left in the different departments. All of these goods have been marked down to actual cost and are now bearing A RED TAG, which indicates a

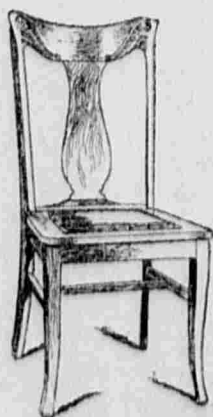
50% DISCOUNT OR MORE

THIS sale includes sideboards, buffets, china closets, dining chairs, extension tables, kitchen cabinets, brass beds, iron beds, dressers, chiffoniers, washstands, dressing tables, wardrobes, parlor sets, davenports, couches, rockers, ranges, refrigerators, go-carts, office desks, library tables, book cases, lace curtains, carpets, rugs, and many other articles.



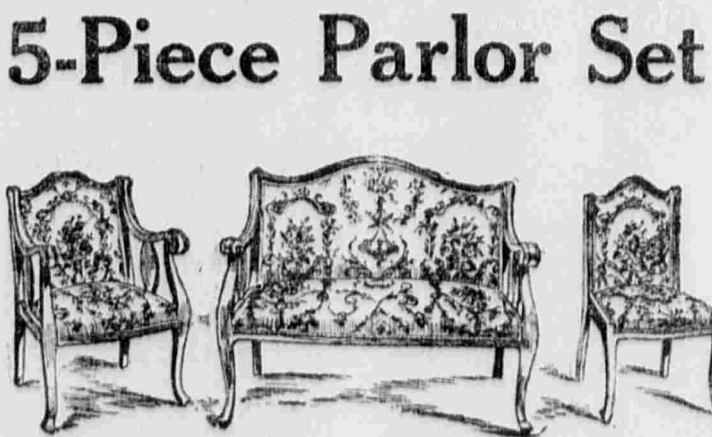
Solid Oak Rocker, wood or cobber, seat, like cut—

\$2.50



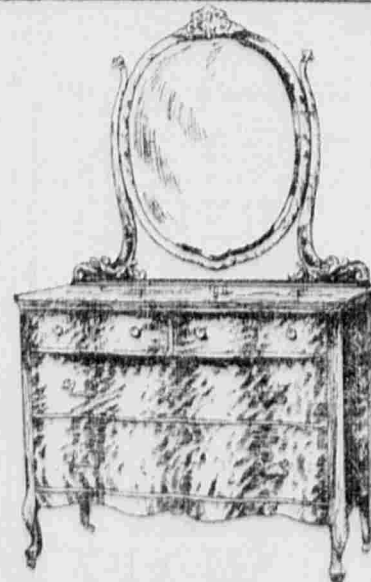
Solid Oak Box Seat dining chair, like cut—

\$2.20



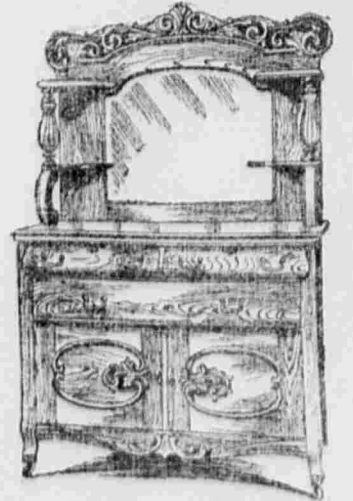
Consisting of 1 Settee, 1 Arm Chair, 1 Rocker, 2 small Chairs, only—

\$25.00



Mahogany Oak or Bird's Eye Maple Dresser, worth \$30 to \$35—

\$17.00



A high grade solid Oak Sideboard, with French Plate Mirror, only—

\$22.50

P.W. Madsen's Furniture and Carpet Store

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