



General Petain, the able Frenchman, who is in charge of the defence of Verdun.

"Outside no sentry is visible, but one remarks little groups of secret service men in civilian clothes, whose chief duty is to prevent the general from being annoyed by anxious peasants still left in the community."

"Questioned as to the ultimate fate of Verdun, staff officers at this headquarters replied, in effect, as follows: "Nobody can say definitely, because our adversaries are playing their all. But the trick has not been taken. With means inferior to their's we have broken a long prepared attack. Let us await development with confidence. Our adversaries cannot repeat their original efforts indefinitely and our admirable troops have not reached the end of their magnificent endeavor."

Gen. Petain jokingly says of himself that he has had fourteen chauffeurs in two months. Gen. Petain was about to retire as a colonel when the war broke out. For his courage and ability in the Charleroi retreat, Gen. Joffre commended him and afterward made him general of brigade. Later he was in a division, and now he commands an army and is exceeded in popularity only by Joffre and Castelnou. Though almost sixty, Gen. Petain is wonderfully vigorous. His men love him because he shirks none of their hardships. In Champagne recently he led a company across two miles of rough ground at double quick.

By the visit paid to him by President Poincaré he has been recognized officially as the saviour of Verdun.

Apart from the indefatigable energy which makes him appear to be

"That is supposed to be rather unlucky, isn't it?"

Not many weeks afterwards the Archduke and his wife were murdered, and events were set rolling that quickly led to the outbreak of the war.

The old call-books at the Palace, if sold in the open market, would probably fetch many thousands of pounds. For a dozen of these books, King Edward is said to have been offered \$75,000 by an American collector, but the offer was, of course, declined — London Answers.

BESIEGED SEVEN YEARS.

Constantinople Once Dedicated a Church to "Divine Peace."

At one period a church at Constantinople was built and dedicated to "the divine peace," and another was dedicated to St. Dynamite, said Sir Edwin Pears in a lecture to the Association of University Women Teachers at University Hall in London.

Referring to the time, centuries back, when Constantinople was besieged for seven years, and the walls built in the time of Justinian resisted all efforts to take it, the lecturer said England at that time was not much more than barbarian, whereas Constantinople was the bulwark of Europe, containing the most learned men, who were perpetuating and contributing to art, literature and painting.

Constantinople was the city in which our Nicene Creed was settled upon, the reason of the wording "I believe in one God," being that there has been a tendency to believe in two or three personalities. But eventually the eastern peril which threatened for many years came upon Constantinople, and it was captured by the Moslems, and had been held ever since by them.

Wasted Labor.

The members of a certain learned society had a gathering at the home of one of their number. While they were roaming about the house the host called the attention of his guests to an old clock, a great favorite of his. He told his friends of his attachment to this ancient timepiece, and added, "gentlemen, I have wound up that clock every night for more than forty years!" "Well, you've done a lot of unnecessary labor, then," said one of his friends who was examining the clock, "for that's an eight-day clock!"

No, Claud, a man isn't necessarily a simpleton merely because he lives the simple life.

present he has more orders than he can fill." And Private — is, in fact, a fair sample of St. Dunstan's output, and a number of others who learn the trade of mat-making are doing as well as he is.

Various Trades Learned.

Several basket-makers are earning good wages; one who has been so fortunate as to obtain special work showing at present earnings which reach as high as £2 a week.

Makers of picture-frames, trays, and other articles, requiring an expert knowledge of joinery, find their time fully and profitably occupied.

No masseurs have yet completed their training, but several will pass the stiff examination which lay before them in the course of the next few weeks, and they have been promised well-paid posts at military hospitals.

Other men are rapidly qualifying as expert short-hand writers by the Braille system, as telephone-operators, and as divers.

The important work of devising a satisfactory scheme of after-care for the men who are settled at their various occupations is proceeding satisfactorily. Arrangements have to be made for supervising their work, which would otherwise tend to deteriorate, for providing their raw material, for marketing their goods, and for securing a continuity of well-paid employment for those who have been trained in such occupations as massage and boot repairing.

A large permanent fund will be needed if this work, which has been entrusted to a special department of the National Institute for the Blind, is to prove permanently useful.

St. Dunstan's has received many intimations of the intention to bequeath legacies for this purpose, and a great number of efforts have been made all over England to augment the fund by bazaars and entertainments of all kinds.

The plea of the blinded soldiers always proves most potent, and highly satisfactory results have followed these efforts. For example, a few young ladies of a small northern town raised £900 by a bazaar.

A firm, who wished to perpetuate the memory of a valued employe, killed at the front, sent £100, which will be permanently recorded on a tablet in the hall of the National Institute for the Blind, and similar memorial sums have been sent by relatives of fallen soldiers.

There's nothing so surprising to the man who shirks a task as the apparent ease and rapidity with which a man of industry accomplishes it.

The forests of the Argonne, all along the front have been razed by shell and shrapnel, and the aspect of the hill is being still further modified by these tunneling and mining operations.

A practical miner in private life, specialized at the front in this kind of work, describes the conditions under which the work is often suddenly stopped and the enemy's operations checked at the same time:

"The sappers are digging, shoveling in silence, when suddenly one of them stops; he has heard a hollow sound in the soil under his pick; two or three more strokes, and his instinct of an old miner reveals to him that there is a hole under the gallery; he strikes again, the point of the pick penetrates; there is no more doubt but that a German blasting hole exists underneath. By small strokes, slowly, with infinite precaution, the sapper enlarges the opening, then, aided by his comrades, lets himself down into the hole With Revolver in His Fist.

It is, indeed, a German blasting hole that he has discovered, with a gallery at the end. The question is, whether it is occupied—impossible to tell; the enemy, perhaps, will appear and rush upon the intruders; no one comes, the mine is empty. Leaving a watchman, the sappers and miners ascend into the French gallery and go and report their discovery to the captain, who decides to profit by the occasion to play a good game upon the Germans. While continuing to work in the neighboring mines to deceive the adversary, sappers and auxiliaries of the infantry are put silently to work stuffing with explosives the old German blasting hole which communicates with the gallery leading to the German earthworks, and to a little occupied post. Every one works unceasingly. "What a good joke to play upon them, every one says. The Germans at the other end of the gallery are on the watch, and we have been on the watch for them to see that they did not surprise our plans, for the slightest slip or awkwardness, a bungling movement with the tools, might give the alarm. Finally, at dawn, the work is done. The entire German gallery at the end where it communicates with our excavation is nothing but a vast canyon stuffed with cheddite; all the men are at their posts; a signal is given; the fuse lighted; and in an instant the earth cracks. It is safe to raise a head above the surface now, for the enemy is too much occupied to fire. The trench is entirely unheaved, and the Germans fly in the air, some of them whole and some of them in parts."

The poor man who weds an heiress believes in the gold cure for financial ills.

and sympathetic understanding between the people of Scotland and Russia.

By the death of Mr. Alexander MacKinnon, the gardening world in Scotland has lost one of its most distinguished members. For many years he acted as head gardener and manager to Viscount Melville at Melville Castle, Midlothian.

One of the oldest soup kitchens in Scotland is that at the border town of Coldstream, which has just celebrated its centenary. In its early days it was supported largely by means of a voluntary levy of a penny per week per inhabitant.

ABOUT BANDAGES.

The Best Material to Use is Unbleached Calico.

What's a bandage? Something you wrap round a wound? Vastly more than that.

There are as many varieties of bandages and as many ways of fixing them as there are wounds and limbs—and more. The usual material for Red Cross roller bandages is unbleached calico, as it has stiffness and substance. White cotton or sheeting is second choice. Linen is seldom used—too expensive.

Flannel bandages are for the trunk of the body and rheumatic joints. Gauze is used to retain a dressing in position. Domette is useful for keeping bandages or splints in position. Stockingette may be used for varicose veins or dropsical limbs. Muslin or crinoline are employed in the application of plaster-of-Paris, starch, or silicated bandages.

The regulation widths and lengths of roller bandages may surprise you. Taking the series, finger, arm, leg and body—the widths run from 1/4 in. to 6 in., and the lengths from 1 1/2 yd. to 24 ft. Varieties of bandages are: single-headed, double-headed, spica, capelline, half-capelline, four-tailed, many-tailed, etc. Each has its proper use, and the correct method of binding needs careful study. Generally the limbs are bound from below upwards, but the abdomen must be bound from above downward. Fingers, toes, arms, legs are bandaged differently. Even the position of a nurse while applying them is rigorously defined.

Bandaging is a good deal more than wrapping something round a wound.

Initials Spell "Mother."

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick S. McClory of Chicago have six children, Mildred, Olive, Theodore, Harry, Elizabeth and Robert, whose initials, properly arranged, spell "mother." This happened by chance, as Harry is the oldest and Elizabeth the youngest.