

WEST POINT.

There is no more beautiful spot on either bank of the Hudson, in all the distance traversed by that noble stream, than the site of the National Military Academy. There is scarcely a tract, on the Hudson or any other American stream, so thickly strewn with reminders of the early years and early struggles of the American Republic. And yet the one fact is by no means an explanation of the other. Not for its natural beauty, but by reason of its topographical attitude with respect to the surrounding country, was West Point chosen very early in American history as a military center. During the war of the revolution the Point possessed great strategic importance, because it absolutely commanded the only water route by which the British could get in supplies and co-operation from Canada. As early as 1775 there were works erected on Constitution Island, then known as Martel's Rock, and from that time to the end of the war of independence the erection of defenses was continuously maintained. Fort Arnold, Fort Clinton and Fort Montgomery and other works were successively begun. In 1780, as every schoolboy knows—better, perhaps, than his elders—the entire command of West Point and its dependencies was transferred to General Benedict Arnold, who within six weeks made the place the theatre of that ever memorable treason. Arnold's immediate object was to make over the Hudson River Highlands to the enemy, and West Point was the key to the Highlands.

Burgoyne surrendered, the end of the war came, and the defenses along the river were suffered to fall to decay. Not until 1828 did it occur to the cadets to erect a monument to Kosciusko, who had mainly superintended the erection of the defenses. For West Point Academy had meanwhile become a fact. In 1783 Colonel Pickering, quartermaster of the army, dropped a suggestion which, eleven years later, bore fruit in the form of an appropriation by Congress for a military school at Hudson. The act contemplated the organization of four battalions of engineers and artillery to each of which four cadets were attached. A small beginning; but but it was not until 1798 that the original sixteen youngsters had grown to fifty-six. These had four teachers, but alas! no fixed place of abode. That came in March, 1802, when Congress passed an act determining the location of the military peace school at West Point. The senior officer of engineers was made superintendent. A year later that functionary was permitted to appoint a teacher of French and one of drawing to supplement his corps of military instructors. And this simple arrangement lasted until 1812, when professors of mathematics and engineering were added to the staff, with proper assistance. The attendance had reached such a stage that Congress passed an act limiting the number of cadets to 250. By subsequent acts of Congress this number has been increased to 344 and the curriculum extended so as to include geography, geology, mineralogy, Spanish, law and an indefinite assortment of more or less ornamental branches.

The increase in pupils has been a natural out-growth of the scheme of appointments. At West Point, as at Annapolis, a select few of the youth of the country are paid a nominal salary of \$500 a year to be educated. They get no money, as a matter of fact, but they get their education free. Add to this the éclat attaching to the military institution, the killing uniforms, the assertion of superiority over mere civilians, the remote possibility of actual exposure to war, and the very probable prospect of a soft berth as a carpet knight—take all these things into consideration and see at once why there is great pressure to be admitted to the school. To distribute favors equitably Congress long ago decreed that each Congressman should have the appointment (should a vacancy occur) of one cadet for his district, the President of ten at large, and the Secretary of State of one from each territory. This arrangement has been criticised as undemocratic, unfair, and a political toy, but it remains unchanged, after many years.

At the beginning very light tests were imposed upon the young aspirants for West Point honors. They needed to be between fourteen and twenty-one years of age, of good moral character—not too good—and to know something—not too much—about the three r's—reading, riting, and rithmetic. The age of admission has been changed to seventeen—twenty-one years, and the other requirements increased, until now the candidate must have a tolerable education in the rudimentary branches, and some knowledge of ornamental branches as well. He must moreover, be without physical speck or flaw. Much discussion has ensued upon the increased requirements, but the judgment of the superintendents, seconded by that of successive visiting boards, favors the present standard, or even a higher one. Colonel Merritt, the present superintendent, showed in his report last September that of the 1,570 cadets appointed between 1873

and 1882 but 519 had been graduated—about 33 per cent.

During the six preceding years the corresponding percentage was 41, and in the twenty-one years from 1845 to 1866, 51. Each of these changes of figures indicates an advancement of the standard, and the authorities claim that there has been a corresponding elevation in the character and caliber of the graduates at the school. It is even hinted that at the time when the great generals of the Mexican war and the rebellion were cadets almost anybody with the proper amount of political backing could have graduated at West Point.

West Pointers are fed at an expense of a little more than 50 cents a day. Inmates of the Chicago Bridewell get only 7 cents' worth, and still survive; so that it is plausibly inferred that the cadets live fairly well. That they are worked hard, at least during their academic term, seems equally certain. It has been shown that large numbers fall by the wayside, midway in their course. This, Colonel Merritt says, is by no means a disgrace to the unsuccessful students, unless it be the result of idleness, or worse. The school term begins in September. The three months of each year preceding are spent in camp at practical work cognate to the ends for which the cadets are being trained.

Considering the ominous and bloody character of this business, it is remarkable how light and frolicsome is the demeanor of the infant warriors. The region round about West Point is thick with female seminaries and colleges. Vassar itself is not far away. And to the beeting home of Mars the spectacle of Minervas love to troop, in beautiful, giddy throngs; No hops, dances, balls, parties, conversations, kettle drums, soirees, dansantes or other social dissipations are so gay as those at West Point. There is a delightful promenade under the shadow of Old Crow Nest, which bears the scandalous name of "Flirtation Walk." Nature has done so much for this beautiful country that no wonder the maidens gather about the place.

There are 2,100 acres in the tract devoted to the Military Academy. Of these, 1,775 were purchased in 1790 from Stephen Moore, and 330 in 1824 from Oliver Grisley. One hundred and sixty acres are in the form of a level plateau elevated nearly two hundred feet above the river. The State of New York has ceded to the Federal Government its jurisdiction over this tract.

Danger in the Refrigerator.

Nothing in which food is placed or with which it comes in contact needs more care than the refrigerator. It should be kept as pure and sweet as the churn. Once a week, on a day when the supply of ice is low, if you use the chest refrigerator, remove the ice and wash the interior with soap and water and rinse well; also see that the outlet is unclogged. Replace the ice and wash the removable shelves in the same manner; air and dry them in the sun. Such a weekly cleaning may waste a few pounds of ice during the Summer, but it will save much in the flavor of the food and in the health of family. If at any time even a few drops of milk or food are spilled have them removed at once and not left to sour and contaminate the entire contents. Keep out of the refrigerator all such articles of food as will affect the flavor of others, as fish, boiled cabbage and other strong flavored vegetables, for milk, butter, bread, in fact everything, will be tainted by them. The air in a refrigerator, if not changed by frequent opening and occasional airing, becomes stagnant and charged with the exhalations of food and the moisture from the melting ice. It can be readily understood that such a receptacle is not the proper place for milk, especially that which is to be used by an infant. This foul air is particularly noticeable upon opening a refrigerator from which the ice has entirely melted. It is yet to be decided whether we are not depending too much on ice for food preservation. If we find that meat which has been kept by means of cold storage must be used at once lest it spoil, milk preserved long upon ice must be used with greater care, for it is so powerful an absorbent that its possibilities of danger are even greater.

One Cent.

It is almost impossible to attach any importance to one cent; but at the same time, it is a very important coin at times. It will take a circular to California, and it will make you madder than a hatter and a March hare combined, when you go to pay your fare on a horse-car and find that you have but four cents and a ten-dollar bill. Then will the wanting cent seem colossal. Especially when you see the conductor fold your ten-dollar bill and stow it carefully in his vest pocket, and then begin to deal you out a lot of change that looks as though it had been in circulation since the revolutionary war. One cent is very small when you present it to an organ-grinder's monkey, but when it is added to the rate of interest you receive on a stock, it possesses a stern magnificent grandeur that carries you away like a strain of music.

Injustice of Circumstantial Evidence.

There is a case recorded by the National Gazette of Berlin which will go far to shake public confidence in circumstantial evidence. Four years ago in Elberfeld the wife of Albert Fiethen was discovered murdered. Robbery was not the object of the crime. Some 9,000 marks were left undisturbed. The husband was absent, or at least it so appeared. He and his wife did not live together happily on account of a difference of religion. His wife was a Catholic, and he was a Protestant and kept a mistress at Cologne. On account of his double life and the differences between himself and his wife the jury found that he was the only person who could have committed the crime. A farm boy had testified that he had seen the husband of the wife strike her five times on the head. Fiethen was sentenced to death, but the Emperor commuted his sentence to hard labor for life. Fiethen's father did not believe in his guilt, and he has worked four years to discover the real murderer, and has finally succeeded. The murderer was a farm boy in a fit of drunkenness. He confessed, and upon subsequent arrest by the police he confirmed this confession. He had first made advances to Fiethen's wife. She had threatened him with her husband's rod, and to escape this he killed her before he was aware of what he was doing. The innocent Fiethen will at once be released.

Col. R. S. Withers, Fair Lawn Stock Farm, Ky., and Joseph Cairne Simpson, Esq., Secretary Pacific Coast Blood Horse Association, commend St. Jacobs Oil for all horse complaints. Sold by Druggists and Dealers.

Bird Notes.

The blackbird has been found equally destructive of the eggs of birds of other species with that of the crow and sparrow.

A swallow flew against a Philadelphia boy's face and drove his bill clean through his cheek. The boy held the bird fast by his teeth, and it now occupies a cage as a pet.

A pair of swallows have built a nest in one of the electric lights of Oshkosh, Wis., and have hatched six young ones. The nest is directly under the bowl which is placed over the light, and but a few inches from the light.

John Ellis of Williamsport, Pa., has

a very intelligent crow. When he sees the dog dinging he sneaks up behind and grabs his tail. The dog wheels around, when the crow snatches up the coveted food and is instantly out of reach. The catbird, just before dining upon your ripe, nice cherries, perches him upon an eminence in the neighborhood, and then you are treated to a comic opera of over half an hour's length. His melody at such times is very pleasing.

An owl swooped down from a tall tree upon a catfish which James Wilkins of Americus, Ga., had upon his hook while fishing. The fight between the owl and Wilkins was a desperate one, with the final discomfiture of the bird.

Three times a Sumter, Ga., man broke up the nest of a guinea hen that seemed determined to sit. The last time she deliberately walked to a well, flew to the curbing, and plunged head first into the deep waters below. When got out she was dead.

Something new in the bird line was captured by F. B. Phelps of Mulberry, S. C. It has the head of the owl, with tremendous black eyes. Its face looked like a monkey's with white cheeks and a black streak over each eye. The rest of the head inclined to gray, with black dots near the end of each feather. The body was covered with a beautiful plumage. Whenever he went near it it would give a most unearthly yell that frightened the dogs. It whipped out every dog on the place.

Royally Insane.

The taint of insanity that pervades the royal families of Europe is assuming alarming proportions. Succeeding the sad case of the Duchess of Cumberland comes that of the Duchess of d'Alencour was engaged to the late King of Bavaria, who, it is now recognized, was hopelessly mad for nearly twenty years. She is also the sister of the Empress of Austria. The royal family of England are not exempt from this scourge of Kings. George the Third was insane at his jubilee in 1809. His blood flows in the veins of the royal family.

Beautiful Women.

are made pallid and unattractive by functional irregularities, which Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription" will infallibly cure. Thousands of testimonials. By druggists.

Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe writes a hand that is peculiar and difficult to read, because so many of her letters must be guessed at. All the Beechers made the same kind of a B. It is humped and distorted.

POND'S EXTRACT

Invaluable for WOUNDS, BRUISES, SPRAINS, SCALDS, BURNS, SORE FEET, INSECT BITES, FILES, CHAFING.

Caution.—POND'S EXTRACT has been imitated. The genuine has the words "POND'S EXTRACT" blown to the glass, and our picture trade mark on surrounding buff wrapper. Take no other preparation.

INFLAMED EYES, RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, CATARRH, DIPHTHERIA, HOARSENESS, SORE THROAT, TOOTHACHE, DIARRHEA, DYSENTERY, Etc., Etc.

CASTORIA

for Infants and Children.

"Castoria is so well adapted to children that I recommend it as superior to any prescription known to me." H. A. ARDREY, M. D., 211 So. Oxford St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Castoria cures Colic, Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Eructation, Kills Worms, gives sleep, and promotes digestion. Without injurious medication.

THE CASTORIA COMPANY, 126 Fulton Street, N. Y.

TOWER'S SLICKER Is The Best Waterproof Coat Ever Made.

Don't waste your money on a gum or rubber coat. The FISH BRAND SLICKER is absolutely proof and wind proof, and will keep you dry in the hardest storm. Ask for the "FISH BRAND" SLICKER and take no other. If your druggist does not have the "FISH BRAND", send for descriptive catalogue to A. J. TOWER, 20 Simmons St., Boston, Mass.

Why did the Women of this country use over *thirteen million* cakes of Procter & Gamble's Lenox Soap in 1886? Buy a cake of Lenox and you will soon understand why.

For Good Purposes.

Mrs. M. A. Dauphin, of Philadelphia, is well known to the ladies of that city from the great good she has done by means of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. She writes Mrs. Pinkham of a recent interesting case. "A young married lady came to me suffering with a severe case of Protrusion and Ulceration. She commenced taking the Compound and in two months was FULLY RESTORED. In proof of this she soon found herself in an interesting condition. Influenced by foolish friends she attempted to evade the responsibilities of maturity. After ten or twelve days she came to me again and she was indeed in a most alarming state and suffered terribly. I gave her a table-spoonful of the Compound every hour for eight hours until she fell asleep, she awoke much relieved and evidently better. She continued taking the Compound, and in due season she became the mother of a fine healthy boy. But for the timely use of the medicine she believes her life would have been lost."

Your Druggist has the Compound, \$1 per bottle.

\$5 TO \$4 A DAY. Simple with \$1.50 FREE. Lanes not under the horse's feet. With RUBBER SAFETY BELLS. BARNES & CO., N.Y.

OPIUM Morphine Habit Cured in 10 to 20 days. No pay till cured. Dr. J. Stephens, Lebanon, Ohio.

CANCER cured without cutting or burning. Address: DR. WALKER, 128 South Clark St., Chicago, Ill.

RUPTURE If you want relief and cure at once at your home, apply to Dr. J. A. Thompson's circular of instructions. 24 Broadway, New York.

Don't Marry until you have investigated the benefits of the Home Endowment Association. Send for circular. W. E. Pease, Sec'y, 425 Temple Court, Minneapolis, Minn. Agents wanted.

PENSIONS Officers' pay, bounty secured; death benefits, \$1 years' practice. Success or no fee. Write for circulars and new laws. A. W. McWhorter & Son, Washington, D. C. & Cincinnati, O.

Wanted: Gentlemen and Ladies to Learn Telegraphing. Tuition not paid until position obtained. Address: Dr. Valentine's College, Washington St., Chicago, Ill.

FARMS IN MINNESOTA AND DAKOTA Close to Railroad. Also, unimproved lands at low prices and on easy terms. Address: G. F. KINDELL, Brainerd, Minn.

Pain's Remedy for Catarrh in the Best, Easiest to Use, and Cheapest.

CATARRH

Sold by druggists or sent by mail. St. R. T. Kamble, Warren, Pa.

FITS STOPPED FREE

Dr. J. L. Thompson's Celebrated NERVE RESTORER

For all BRAIN & NERVE DISEASES. Only one cure for Nervous Affections, Fits, Epilepsy, Insanity, etc. It is infallible if taken as directed. First day's use. Tablets and 20 trial bottles free to fit patients, they paying expenses on their own receipt. Send name, P. O. and express address of all orders to Dr. J. L. THOMPSON, 207 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa. Beware of cheap imitations.

BOYS

Crinkle Seersucker garments sent post paid by the Big Boston, Minneapolis, on receipt of the following amount. Cash and notes, ages from 11 to 17 years for \$1.00. Boy's Knee Pant Pleated Suits, ages 4 to 12 years, \$2.15. Boy's Kitts, ages 2 to 5 years \$1.85. Send for our price list of new summer goods.

THE OLDEST MEDICINE IN THE WORLD IS HIGGINS' DR. HIGGINS' Celebrated HYALINE WATER.

This article is a carefully prepared physician's prescription, and has been in constant use for nearly a century, and notwithstanding the many other preparations that have been introduced into the market, the sale of this article is constantly increasing. If the directions are followed, it will never fail. We particularly invite the attention of physicians to its merits. JOHN L. THOMPSON BROS. & CO., Sold by all druggists. Thos. N. Y.

SWAYNE'S

THROAT & LUNG TROUBLES CONQUERED BY SWAYNE'S WILD CHERRY

TO KEEP HEALTHY EXERCISE DAILY 2. EAT GOOD FOOD 3. BE CHEERFUL 4. USE SWAYNE'S PILLS

SWAYNE'S VERMIFUGE FOR CHILDREN'S MEDICINE

SWAYNE'S PANACEA PURIFIES BLOOD

CONDON HAIR RESTORER (ENGLISH) DR. SWAYNE'S SON SOLE AGENT.

OINTMENT

THE GREAT CURE FOR ITCHING PILES

SKIN HUMOR

Symptoms: Moisture, intense itching and stinging, most at night—worse by scratching—very distressing. If allowed to continue tumors form which often bleed and ulcerate, becoming very sore.

SWAYNE'S OINTMENT Stops the itching and bleeding, heals ulceration, and in many cases removes the tumors. Sent by mail for 50 cts. DR. SWAYNE'S SON, PHILADELPHIA, PA. SOLE BY DRUGGISTS

OLDEST U.S.