which some
discovered:
take a walk in the
may then speak to the
not hurting any person, or per-
yourself to be a simpleton."
a fit of idleness, count the
of a clock; do this for one hour,
you will be glad to pull off your
and go to work like a man." U84

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the physical system, like a machine,
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Primitive Arms Giving Place to Improved Weapons—The Navy Is Better Than the Army.

China has made great efforts in the last few years to bring her army and navy nearer the standards of those of Western nations. The total strength of the army is, says the New York Tribune, about 600,000 men of whom more than 200,000 are permanently stationed for the garrison of the city of Peking, the others being scattered throughout the various provinces of the Empire. Besides these there is an ill-formed organization, which might be called a militia, which gets small pay and never serves with the colors. The discipline of the army is good, and so far as military punishments are concerned, there is hardly a more stringent organization in the world. As a fighting force, however, in the opinion of most foreign military men, the Chinese army has never counted for much. But the last few years may have made a great difference in this regard; as the American, German and English officers employed by the Government have done all in their power to effect proper changes.

In addition to the troops mentioned there are the various provincial forces which are enlisted, paid and controlled by the viceroys of the provinces and mandarins of the cities in which they may be quartered. These are known as the Army of the Green Standard, in contradistinction to the Manchu divisions—the real Chinese soldiers, divided into red, white, blue and yellow divisions, so-called from the color of their battle flags.

The arms of most of these troops were until recently of the most primitive type, and consisted principally of long spears or knives secured to long poles, bows and arrows and clubs. Within the last few years, however, many of these battalions have been provided with the most improved modern arms. Two years ago several Chinese officials were sent to Europe to negotiate for the purchase of sufficient modern rifles to arm the entire forces garrisoning the frontiers of Siberia, Tonquin and along the seacoast. The army of Li Hung Chang, the Chinese Prime Minister and Viceroy of the Province of Chihli, numbers about 100,000 men, and is the flower of the Empire. These troops are armed with modern rifles, and have for years been under the leadership of German and American officers, who have brought them up to a state of discipline and efficiency hardly second to any similar body of foreign troops. It is the possession of this army, in love with its chief, which has made him so independent. Chihli is regarded as the gate to Peking, hence the care and attention bestowed upon the troops forming its garrison.

The Chinese soldier has little regard for law and order, and despite the strict discipline and rigid punishments inflicted, cannot be always held in bounds. This is due in part to the comparatively little respect in which native troops hold native commanders. In a country ruled as is China there is little hope of redress from higher authorities, and about the only chance the soldier has is to rise and kill his oppressors.

The Chinese confine themselves chiefly to infantry. The total cavalry force of the active army is only about 80,000, and of artillery, 20,000. There is, however, an "irregular" class of cavalry which may number nearly 100,000. This force is armed in the most primitive fashion.

The navy is a different stamp from the army, and the sailors have been longer under the influence of foreign officers. They are also more trustworthy. Separated as they are from the influences which surround the men on shore, the sailors are free from the temptations and conspiracies which have undermined the troops. The class of men employed on the vessels is also better. The naval officers have been educated in the various naval academies by foreign instructors, and are taught and disciplined according to the systems in vogue in the service of the United States, England and France.

The Imperial Government supports three naval colleges for the education of cadets or officers—one at Tien-Tsin, another at Wei-Hai-Woi and the third at Foo-Chow. The instructors are graduates of naval academies of foreign countries, those of Annapolis predominating. The system of instruction is as thorough as the Chinese boy can grasp, but is chiefly practical rather than theoretical, so that by the time the course is finished the cadet is ready to assume his duties on a man-of-war. The cadets are usually chosen from the families of prominent officials living in the seacoast provinces, but members are admitted from any other official and mandarin class.

The Chinese Navy proper comprises about seventy men-of-war, not including many small transports and revenue cutters which, in time of [illegible] can be [illegible] service, [illegible] followed [illegible] Foo-Chow. Each squadron has its own admiral, but is governed directly by the Viceroys of Chihli and Canton, respectively, who are held personally responsible by the Emperor for the efficiency and warlike condition of the two fleets.

An authority writing of the army and navy two years ago says: "The Chinese army, owing to its primitive weapons, has never shown itself capable of successfully opposing a foreign force, but with the changes recently wrought in the personnel and arms, the army will probably in the next war redeem many of its lost laurels. The Chinese navy has on all occasions shown a record of bravery and devotion which in other nations would have gained more merit than in China. At the battle of Foo-Chow in August, 1884, a few obsolete Chinese ships resisted until the last vessel was blown up by the attack of an overpowering French squadron, armed with the most approved types of gun and armor, and supplied with torpedoes. For the next war we must foresee that things have greatly changed."

THE COCOPAH DESERT.

A Veritable Valley of Death in Southern California.

For a trip across the Cocopah Desert in southern California, you fill your zinc canteens at the spring in the Canada de las Palmas; then by a gradual descent down the canyon, the heat noticeably increasing as you descend, you pass out from the cooling shades of the towering Sierra Madres in that veritable "Valley of Death." If you are inexperienced, a "tenderfoot," never attempt the trip without a guide, and not then between the months of April and October. An Indian will pilot you across for a few dollars, or you may fall in with some old prospector. If so, his first question will be with reference to your facilities for carrying water. There are no landmaks by which to shape your course, so a guide is an absolute necessity. Here and there about the plain are sand dunes, varying in height from little hillocks to sixty feet or more. Lay your course by even the tallest of these and you are lost, for in a few hours it may have entirely disappeared, only to be rebuilded by the wind at right angles to your course several miles away. If you are alone, and inexperienced, your only infallible guides will be the sun and stars; if these are obscured, camp and wait until they reappear, if your water supply will permit; if not, then push on through that scorching sand—and may the Lord take pity on you. If you are experienced, the rocks and the cactus bushes will tell you which is north and which is south.

Opinions differ as to the length of time a man can go without water in that desert and retain his reason, but the maximum limit for one unused to desert travel is eight hours. I know of two leather-lunged old prospectors who were thirty-six hours without water, and yet had sufficient sense and strength to follow their old bell burro, whose animal instinct led them to a water hole hitherto unknown. personally, I have gone twenty-two hours without water there, and then slaked my burning thirst in hot, muddy alkali water that had collected on a bear's track, and, although I had fought with a big, black mountain tiger for the coveted draught, it was the sweetest I ever quaffed.

There is gold in the mountains, silver, quartz and placers, but there is not sufficient water in the entire town to supply the domestic necessities of an average camp, to say nothing of a stamp mill. There is absolutely no timber, scarcely enough hard wood for camp-fires, and shipping the ore is out of the question. fabulously rich must be the ore that can pay for sacking and packing on burros 100 miles to the nearest railroad station.—[St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A Fighting Swordfish.

Saturday C. McVey, a fisherman, returned from a swordfishing trip and reported a thrilling experience. He had just thrust the iron into the great fish, when it turned and rushed for his dory, striking it with such force as to send its sword through the boat and to overturn it. All McVey could do was to hold on to the bottom of his capsized boat. He said that he remained four hours in that uncomfortable position before help came. Then he saved his dory and secured the fish, which had [illegible] This strange experience took [illegible] off the South Shoals.—[Fo[illegible] (Mass.) Press.

IF THERE are any housekeepers not using ROYAL BAKING POWDER, its great qualities warrant them in making a trial of it.

The ROYAL BAKING POWDER takes the place of soda and cream of tartar, is more convenient, more economical, and makes the biscuit, cake, pudding and dumpling lighter, sweeter, more delicious and wholesome.

Those who take pride in making the finest food say that it is quite indispensable therefor.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., 106 WALL ST., NEW-YORK.

"Duck Night."

Duck Night at Ewell's store, down on the Virginia coast near the North Carolina line, is locally famous in the ducking season as the special night in the week when the storekeeper is at home to the duck hunters of the region. Ewell buys ducks of the hunters, paying for the game in goods from his store, and shipping his purchases to an upcoast life-saving station, when they find their way to the markets of Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. As Ewell waits behind his counter with a lantern, the duckers, rude-looking fellows of the beach-comber type, drop in one by one and sit round in the gloom. Ewell hangs the game in a cold room at the rear of the store and accredits each ducker with the agreed value of his ducks. As each transaction is made the ducker recalls something that he needs from the merchant's stock, and when he has received the article the price is debited against his credit. The ducker then relapses to the nearest barrel or box and waits until some other needed article occurs to his mind. He then makes the new demand upon the merchant, has a new debit placed against his credit, and again slinks back into the gloom. After fully two hours of this sort of thing, those who wish the balance of their credit paid in cash receive their dues and everybody cautiously repairs to a hollow tree nearby, where moonshiners from over the North Carolina line are waiting with a fiery article of untaxed liquor, and the heart of the ducker is made glad.—[Chicago Herald.

Queer Place for a Will.

There was picked up on the shore at Hoboken a few days ago a pair of shoes, in one of which was a parchment certificate of probate of a will dated in 1852, describing a valuable estate in Ireland, together with numerous certificates of stock in several Irish banks. The name of the testator was John Johnson, of the Diocese of Clogher.—[Detroit Free Press.

Terrible Battle With a Snake.

Andrew Winner, of Pleasant Valley, Bucks County, Penn., had a terrible battle one morning recently with a very large blacksnake, measuring five feet, four inches in length. He was plowing in the field, when the snake confronted and attacked his horses. Winner caught hold of a club lying near by and endeavored to club it to death, but he was severely bitten three time on his hands and face before he succeeded in killing the snake, which fought viciously. This is the third large blacksnake Winner has killed in his fields this season.—[Trenton (N. J.) American. U84

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Receivers of all kinds of Country Produce, including Game, Live and Dressed Poultry and Dressed Calves. Specialties: Berries, Grapes, Apples, Pears, Honey, Onions, Potatoes and Butter. Correspondence and Consignments solicited. Stencils furnished. Reference: Dun's or Bradstreet's Commercial Reports, to be found at any bank.

Warren's Natural ASPHALT Ready-to-Roofing.
Durable—Easily Applied
This roofing contains no coal tar and will not dry up and become brittle under exposure to the weather. Send for free samples and Circular to Warren Chemical & Mfg. Co., 80 Fulton Street, New York, U. S. A.

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MRS. KUHN.

MRS. KUHN, of 613 E. 16th Street, New York City, writes as follows: "It pleases me to state that I had a running sore upon my neck, and had it operated upon three times, and still it was not cured. I was also run down very much. There was a decided change after using 'Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery,' I took a few bottles and was soon cured. Later my husband had a lump behind his ear; he tried your medicine, and one bottle cured him. I shall always recommend your medicines.

$1000 in money besides other valuable premiums to good guessers. Baseball Contests, catch on. See offer in HOME AND COUNTRY MAGAZINE. Price, 25 cents. Sample Magazine can be seen and full particulars obtained at this office. All Newsdealers, or 53 East 10th Street, New York City.

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