

# WEST POINT LIFE

FOUR YEARS OF RIGID DISCIPLINE FOR CADETS.

The First Year of Servitude and Submission to Having—Programme of Daily Life and Study.

No place exists in the United States the name of which is so closely interwoven with the history of the country as that of West Point. It was a conspicuous place in the days of the Revolutionary struggle, when its topographical situation made it desirable, and near about it were enacted some of the deeds of heroism which will live to the credit of the patriotic Continentals while the annals of the Republic shall last. Its situation on the Hudson, says the New York Tribune, is one of the beauty spots of the country, and, while great changes have been made near it since the days of the Revolution and the relentless hand of nineteenth century progress has transformed many districts near it into modern, prosaic towns, West Point remains undented and majestic as it left the hand of the great Architect, and even the modern buildings which have been erected on the heights which overlook the river and the proud monument which recalls the names of departed heroes pale into insignificance before the picture of natural beauty which nothing can obliterate while the Hudson winds beneath the rocky cliffs and verdure and sunlight add their colors to the scene.

But to the American West Point is attractive beyond its association with the days of old and its natural beauty, because from the academy which the Government maintains upon the reservation came the men who wrote their names in imperishable letters upon the country's history and repaid in many instances with their life's blood the benefits which they received there.

The cadets come from all parts of the country; they represent all grades and classes of the community, and there is probably no educational institution on the continent in which a man's social, political or financial standing would count for less than at West Point, and where his advancement and final graduation would depend so thoroughly and exclusively upon his own personal work. Cadets are appointed by members of Congress and by the President; and in recent years it has been the custom to give the places of principal and alternate to the aspirants by competitive examination. A candidate must be over seventeen years old and under twenty-two. If he is under five feet in height he is ineligible. He must be perfectly formed and must be of a "good moral" character. He must be able to read and write the English language correctly and to perform, with facility and accuracy, the various operations of the ground rules of arithmetic, of reduction, of simple and compound proportion and vulgar and decimal fractions, and have a knowledge of English grammar, of descriptive geography, particularly of the United States and of the country's history. The regulations provide: "No married person shall be admitted as a candidate; and if any candidate shall be married before graduation such marriage shall be considered as equivalent to a resignation, and he shall leave the institution accordingly." After a boy has passed the prescribed examination and has been found qualified mentally, physically and morally to become a cadet, he must report on or before June 15 following the examination to the Superintendent of the academy and sign an agreement for service in the following form:

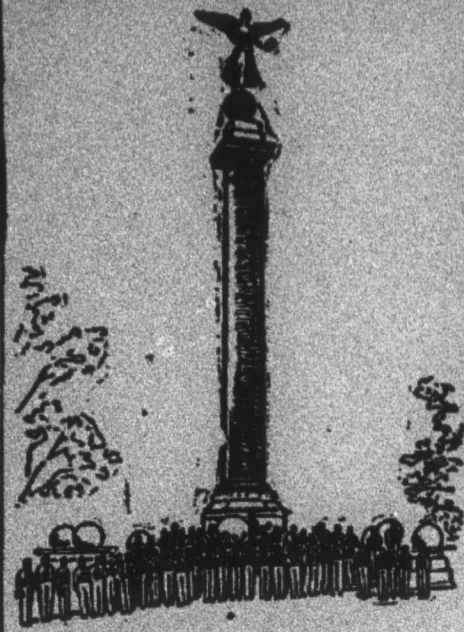
I, \_\_\_\_\_ of the State of \_\_\_\_\_, aged \_\_\_\_\_ years, \_\_\_\_\_ months, do hereby engage, with the consent of my parents or guardian, that from the date of my admission as a cadet of the United States Military Academy I will serve in the Army of the United States for eight years, unless sooner discharged by competent authority.

The cadet also subscribes to an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and that he will bear true allegiance to the National Government.

The number of men in West Point is comparatively small, about 800 in all, and the new student becomes conspicuous at once by the manner of his carriage and his lack of military bearing. This is just as true of those who

had some experience in so-called military schools before they came to West Point as of the boys who come fresh from their mother's apron strings. The "setting-up" is done by upper class men, whose apparent severity has caused many a young heart to beat rapidly and whose shout of "What do you mean by standing that way?" or "You, I mean, you there," or "Don't

you know what your right foot is?" has caused a lump to rise in the throat



THE BATTEN MONUMENT.

of many a new cadet who until that moment fancied that he was letter perfect and with points to spare.

The new man comes to the academy at that time of the year when the hard work for those who remain is over, and camp life begins. Hard and exacting work has been the order of the day; unceasing, tireless application to the studies which extend over a wide field has taken the time of the whole year, and the student hails the advent of June with joy, because it brings the camp season and comparative rest. It is particularly welcome to the men who are just completing their first year, who will emerge from their pleb-

dom into full-fledged cadetship, who will throw off the galling yoke of underling, and will have a new lot of plebs with whom to get even for what they themselves have endured. And so, with every yearling standing in wait for him, the cadet enters camp for a season of about eleven weeks.

If his heart is not broken by the upper class men while in camp, and if he passes the examination which follows a few months later, he becomes a full-fledged cadet, with a prospect of being graduated from the school in four years. The camp trial is the most severe test, and the man who goes through the ordeal of the peculiar hazing to which the pleb is subjected, who can control himself sufficiently to take it all in the proper spirit, who can keep up with his studies in the mean time and acquire sufficient rudimentary knowledge of military matters to satisfy his instructors, shows himself well qualified for the work which will follow and for the positions of trust and responsibility to which he may be called later.

It does not matter who the man is, whether he is the son of a Senator, a General, a diplomat, or a blacksmith, whether rich or poor, he is a pleb with the plebs, and no power can save him from making love to a broomstick in the presence of a lot of upper class men if they decide that he shall do so, no influence can gain for him the privilege of sitting in the presence of an upper class man unless that man asks him to do so, and his ancestry, station or future prospects would avail him little if he failed to "sit" the upper class man properly and respectfully.

The pleb is rigidly excluded from all the social functions, the little entertainments and jollifications. He has no part in the joys and sorrows of the older men, he can make no visits, although he frequently receives such and at hours when they are the least expected. He is treated by men who were possibly his friends a short time before he came to the Academy in a manner which is worse than indifference, and many a poor fellow, thinking it all over, and realizing that for two years he must remain on the reservation, with no hope for one day's vacation, has clenched his fists in anger and consented to remain only because the hardship of it all was better than the brand of cowardice with which he would be marked if he left. When the man least expects it, a number of upper class men may come into his tent and sit down where they can find a place. He must stand, and then may come an order to tell a story about his travels in India or Iceland or New Jersey, to go through the manual of arms with a lead pencil, to stand on one foot while he names the principal rivers in South America or the capitals of the Territories in the United States. Then there are certain calisthenic exercises for which the upper class men have a great liking when they are performed by a pleb,

and men have been kept busy performing these exercises by their tyrannizers until they were exhausted.

The new man worries along and works and plods to keep up with the required standard in mathematics, English studies, French and military discipline. He becomes a housekeeper, also. He must learn to take care of his room and his outfit. The rules prescribe that he shall have two pairs of uniform shoes, six pairs of white gloves, two sets of white belts, eight white shirts, two night shirts, twelve collars, eight pairs socks, eight pairs summer drawers, eight pairs for winter, six handkerchiefs, six towels, one clothes bag, made of ticking, one clothes brush, one hair brush, one tooth brush, one comb, one mattress, one pillow, two pillowcases, four sheets two blankets, one quilted bed-cover, one chair, one tumbler, one trunk, one account book and one basin. He is commanded by regulation immediately after reveille to hang up his extra clothing, to put such articles in the clothes bag as it is intended to contain, and to arrange his bedding and all his other effects in the prescribed order. He may not, according to the regulation, keep in his room any of the implements used in chess, backgammon or any other game, and he must obtain a permit before any map, picture or piece of writing can be posted or attached in any way to the walls of his room.

When camp season comes again many of the plebs of the last camp season have disappeared; some departed before the camp closed, others could not stand the strain of work during the winter months, some failed to pass the January examinations, and, with the others who fall by the way-

reached there into squads corresponding to the tables in the mess hall. Each squad is accompanied by an officer, who is responsible for the behavior of the men at the table. It is a matter of course that the man who carves, who does all the work and who is served last is a pleb. The hall is decorated with the portraits of graduates who have won fame since they left the institution, and the pleb, looking upon these pictures, may console himself with the thought that the pictures represent men who in their day had to do what he was doing. A corps of men is kept busy waiting upon the cadets, whose appetites give proof of their fine physical condition.

To be a cadet and a late riser is an impossibility. The hours for daily duty are laid down as follows: Reveille at 5.30 a. m., and 6 a. m. on Sunday; police call, five minutes after reveille; surgeon's call, fifteen minutes after reveille; breakfast call, thirty minutes after reveille.

After breakfast the cadets have a few minutes in which to "brush up," and at 8 o'clock they are called to quarters for study and recitation. They have dinner at 1 o'clock. From 2 till 4 o'clock more study and recitation, and then comes evening parade, after which the battalion marches to supper. After supper they have thirty minutes, and are then called to quarters for study until 10 o'clock, when "taps" is sounded, and the signal for "lights out" finds the cadets tired and ready for sleep.

On Wednesday and Saturday afternoons the cadets have no duties to perform, and unless they have been guilty of some slight infraction of the rules they may take a rest. But a peep into the courtyard of the barracks on these afternoons will convince the visitor that all cadets are not angels. While their companions are at ease, those who have transgressed must pace up and down a certain part of the yard accoutred and armed the same as a regular infantryman on sentry duty, and if the gray walls were transparent they would disclose to view also some who must suffer for their misconduct by being confined to their rooms. The strictest discipline, the severe course and the high standard required are the causes for depleting the ranks of the cadet corps, and it is estimated that about sixty per cent of those who are fully accepted as cadets drop out before the four years' term is completed.

Those who remain and are graduated receive a cash capital of \$192 to start with. Out of the \$540 a year which is placed to the credit of every cadet \$4 is taken every month and kept for him, and at the end of his term at West Point he receives it in a lump sum. The purpose of the arrangement is to place the young officer out of need and to enable him to buy his officer's outfit. The \$540 a year which a cadet receives from the Government never reaches him in the shape of money. His account is simply credited with the amount, and against this charges are made for his clothing, books, board, laundry and all incidental expenses, and the great problem is how to keep out of debt. To buy anything with money of his own is an impossibility, because a cadet is kept penniless, and one of the regulations prescribes that no cadet shall apply for or receive money or any other supplies from his parents or from any person whomsoever without permission of the Superintendent.

The third and fourth years in the academy are equally severe; but the men who have outlived the hardships of the preceding terms are likely to survive and are finally graduated and their names sent to the War Department, with the recommendation of the Academic Board for commission in the army.

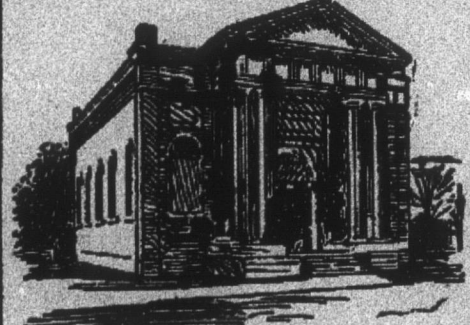
Flower-Making from Bread. A factory in the West End of London is now manufacturing from baker's bread, artificial flowers, so natural in appearance as to deceive the eye of an expert. The process still remains secret, although 100 hands are employed. The flowers not only look exactly like the real article when freshly made, but as the bread becomes stale they assume a slightly withered appearance, almost identical with a flower beginning to fade. The coloring is perfectly natural, rendering them entirely different in this respect from artificial flowers heretofore manufactured.

That Fellow Feeling. Looking at the "Stuffed Animals."—Twinkles.

To be convinced of the prime condition of the cadets one must see them at a meal in the large mess hall, known as Grant Hall. The senior cadet captain is superintendent of the hall, and sits at a table facing the door surrounded by his staff. The cadets march to the hall and are divided when they



ACADEMIC BUILDING AT WEST POINT.



CHAPEL AT WEST POINT.



THE MESS HALL.

had some experience in so-called military schools before they came to West Point as of the boys who come fresh from their mother's apron strings. The "setting-up" is done by upper class men, whose apparent severity has caused many a young heart to beat rapidly and whose shout of "What do you mean by standing that way?" or "You, I mean, you there," or "Don't

CARRIAGES stimulate liver, kidneys and bowels. Never sicken, weaken or grippe.

If afflicted with sore eyes use Dr. I. Thompson's Eye Water. Druggists sell at 25c a bottle.

The members of the Kentucky Legislature have hired detectives to watch each other.

No-To-Bac For Fifty Cents. Over 400,000 cured. Why not let No-To-Bac regulate or remove your desire for tobacco? Saves money, makes health and manhood. Cure guaranteed. 50 cents and \$1.00, at all druggists.

Affairs in financial and commercial circles are at a standstill.

Cancer Cured Without Cutting. Dr. I. H. Grady, of Cincinnati, does it. See ad. in another column.

Just try a 50c. box of Cascarets, the finest liver and bowel regulator ever made.

Fits permanently cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. 50 trial bottle and treatment from Dr. E. H. KLINE, Ltd., 931 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

## Spring Humors

Those unsightly eruptions, painful boils, annoying pimples and other affections, which appear so generally at this season, make the use of that grand Spring Medicine, Hood's Sarsaparilla, a necessity. Take Hood's Sarsaparilla now. It will do you wonderful good. It will purify your blood, give you an appetite, tone your nerves, strengthen your stomach, and cure all spring humors. Remember

**Hood's Sarsaparilla**

is the One True Blood Purifier. \$1.50 per bottle.

Wood's Pills are the only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

R. N. U.—15—97.

Great Women's Pastimes. Apropos of holiday pastimes it is of interest to know that the Queen of the Belgians is fond of games that savor of chance, magic and mysticism. Queen Victoria's favorite pastime is a game of whist and her majesty is an excellent player.

Ellen Terry collects photographs and is a good amateur photographer herself. Mme. Nordica is devoted to boxing and the Duchess of Fife is a very clever fencer. Lady Henry Somerset enjoys driving and is very fond of horses. She is also an artist in oils. Mrs. Asquith spends most of her time visiting the prisons and ministering to the unfortunate. The Duchess of Westminster is an enthusiastic cricketer and Countess Cowper spends her leisure in organ playing. Oliver Schreiner divides her attention now between her writing and caring for her domestic affairs. She and her husband live in three small rooms and together do all their work. Their chief income is derived from the royalty which comes to the wife from the sale of her books.

## The Wonderful Kava-Kava Shrub.

A New Botanical Discovery.—Of Special Interest to Sufferers from Diseases of the Kidneys or Bladder. Rheumatism, etc.—A Blessing to Humanity.

A Free Gift of Great Value to You.

Our readers will be glad to know that the new botanical discovery, Alkavis, from the wonderful Kava-Kava shrub, has proved an assured cure for all diseases caused by Urlic acid in the blood, or by disordered action of the Kidneys or urinary organs. The Kava-Kava Shrub, or as botanists call it, *Piper Methystricum*, grows on the banks of the Ganges river, East India.

THE KAVA-KAVA SHRUB and probably was (*Piper Methystricum*) used for centuries by the natives before its extraordinary properties became known to civilization through Christian missionaries. In this respect it resembles the discovery of quinine from the peruvian bark, made known by the Indians to the early Jesuit missionaries in South America, and by them brought to civilized man. It is a wonderful discovery, with a record of 1200 hospital cures in 30 days. It acts directly upon the blood and kidneys, and is a true specific, just as quinine is in malaria. We have the strongest testimony of many ministers of the gospel, well-known doctors and business men cured by Alkavis, when all other remedies had failed.

In the New York *Weekly World* of Sept. 10th, the testimony of Rev. W. B. Moore, D. D., of Washington, D. C. was given, describing his years of suffering from kidney disease and Rheumatism, and his rapid cure by Alkavis. Rev. Thomas Smith, the Methodist minister at Colden, Illinois, passed nearly one hundred gravel stones after two weeks' use of Alkavis. Rev. John H. Watson, of Sunset, Texas, a minister of the gospel of thirty years' service, was struck down at his post of duty by kidney disease. After hovering between life and death for two months, and all his doctors having failed, he took Alkavis, and was completely restored to health and strength, and is fulfilling his duties as minister of the gospel. Mr. A. C. Wood, a prominent attorney of Lowell, Indiana, was cured of Rheumatism, Kidney and Bladder disease of ten years standing by Alkavis. Mr. Wood describes himself as being in constant misery, often compelled to rise ten times during the night on account of weakness of the bladder. He was treated by all his home physicians without the least benefit and finally completely cured in a few weeks by Alkavis. The testimony is undoubted and really wonderful. Mrs. Frank Young, of Kent, Ohio, writes that she had tried six doctors in vain, that she was about to give up in despair, when she found Alkavis and was promptly cured of kidney disease and restored to health. Many other ladies also testify to the wonderful curative powers of Alkavis in the various disorders peculiar to womanhood.

So far the Church Kidney Cure Company, No. 424 Fourth Avenue, New York, are the only importers of this new remedy, and they are so anxious to prove its value that for the sake of introduction they will send a free treatment of Alkavis prepaid by mail to every reader of this paper who is a sufferer from any form of Kidney or Bladder disorder, Bright's Disease, Rheumatism, Dropsy, Gravel, Pain in Back, Female Complaints, or other affliction due to improper action of the Kidneys or Urinary Organs. We advise all sufferers to send their names and address to the company, and receive the Alkavis free. It is sent to you entirely free, to prove its wonderful curative powers.



Looking at the "Stuffed Animals."—Twinkles.