

## MIGHTY GIBRALTAR FORT KEY TO MEDITERRANEAN

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15—The Mediterranean sea has been the theatre of war since there has been recorded history. As the cradle of European civilization it inevitably became the arena in which men, from the earliest times, fought out their contests. Today there stand the two mightiest naval bases in the world, both British. It seems, perhaps, anomalous that a nation whose homeland is distant should possess these strongholds. The story of Gibraltar and Malta, however, is linked with the tremendous tale of the mighty conquests of the English in the past. Gibraltar was taken during the wars of the Spanish succession, after a three-day siege ending on July 24, 1704. Lord Nelson took Malta.

### Renowned Fortress

The extraordinary shape and mass of the Rock of Gibraltar have made it renowned since the time of the Greeks, the Romans and even the Phoenicians. The rock is literally a rock—one vast mass. It extends two and one-half miles from the base of the cliff at the north front to Europa point. It drifts back to a merging with the mainland.

The Greeks and Romans called it Calpe, while they called a lesser but still impressive rock on the African coast near Ceuta by the name of Alybe. The two, guarding the entrance to the Mediterranean, were known as the Pillars of Hercules, and much mythology, and folklore hung about them.

The British and Dutch forces were engaged in warfare with the purpose of seating the Archduke Charles of Austria on the Spanish throne but, with a somewhat characteristic opportunism, Sir George Rooke, the British commander, hoisted the flag of England on the Rock and claimed it in the name of Queen Anne. The flag never since has been lowered. In October, following the capture, the Spanish made an attempt to retake the Rock but it was unavailing. For 20 years efforts to negotiate the peaceful surrender of the Rock were made by the Spanish and, in 1720, a surprise was attempted. All proved unsuccessful and that one tiny segment of the Iberian peninsula remains British, and would be a powerful factor in any warfare which might take place in the Mediterranean.

### Natural Stronghold

Even without fortification the Rock of Gibraltar is so forbidding as to be a natural fortress. The Moor, Tariq, however, thought he had better erect additional safeguards. According to the historian, Gibbon, he had crossed from Africa to punish a Goth chieftain who, in a raid, had carried off the Moor's daughter. That little love affair resulted in an 800-year occupation of Spain by the Moors and influenced the whole history of the world. Tariq had taken 12,000 followers with him and they and those who came after them gave the Spanish of today their black hair and eyes and somewhat dusky cast of countenance.

The Spanish, after Le Cid had conquered the Moors, re-fortified the Rock of Gibraltar until it was regarded as absolutely impregnable. The great Dutch engineer, Daniel Speckle, designed the works and no one dreamed of attacking the place until the British made the attempt and suc-

ceeded. The most frantic effort made to retake Gibraltar was during the war of the American revolution. With Great Britain busy with France and under the necessity of sending ships and men to America, the Spanish thought the Rock would be off guard. In addition to bombardment, the Spanish employed a blockade and the privations of the garrison, at times, were extreme. But Admiral Sir George Rodney, in one of the most notable sea engagements of that period, overcame the Spanish fleet and raised the siege.

Before the era of warfare was over there took place some remarkable artillery developments. Hemmed in on all sides the British were forced to exercise all their ingenuity to keep the attackers at bay. It was in the course of this long duel that what might be called the first "armored" ships were used. They were "armored" with wood seven feet thick and the Spaniards expected in them to be able to get close enough to land. It was thought that the British ordnance could not penetrate the ships' sides. Nor could it until the British artillerymen invented what was known as the hot shot. Cannon balls were heated red hot and, still glowing, were fired at the Spanish ships, setting them afire. The Spaniards were reduced and since then the history of Gibraltar has been uneventful. In the world war its chief agency was as a coaling station and supply base, but there was no fighting there.

Malta is 17½ miles long and 8½ miles across and is the principal one of the group known as the Maltese islands. The main island is rocky and precipitous, but it has one of the finest natural harbors in the world.

The island had a prehistoric civilization and there remain remarkable archaeological exhibits. The Carthaginians occupied it for a time, even in the teeth of the Romans. Later, as a part of the Roman empire and then a part of the Byzantine empire, it had a colorful existence. What might be called the modern history of Malta, when it was lost to Mediterranean hands, begins with the conquest of the island by Count Roger the Norman, who was the son of Tancred, one of the four leaders of the Great Crusade.

There were various tenures of the island, the most famous having been by the Knights of St. John. They had obtained the grant of the island from the Emperor Charles V on an annual rental of one Maltese falcon. What is known in history as the great siege of Malta occurred in 1565, when the Turks sought to dislodge the Christians. In the defence the knights lost 1,200 men but the Turks lost 7,000.

The last grand master of the Knights of St. John to rule on Malta was Ferdinand Hompesch. Under French rule here was a great revolt of the natives and the English took advantage of this to press upon the French defences. Lord Nelson finally took the island in connection with his Mediterranean operations, and ever since it has been English save that the natives have a voice in the local government.

The place has been strongly fortified from the earliest times and, under English domination, the works have been further strengthened. No one not in the confidence of the British admiralty knows the full strength of

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by  
*Dr. Johnson*

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"There is nothing new under the sun". This is a statement of the truth of which we are frequently reminded when we delve into history. We cannot be quite certain that disease remains the same because we sometimes fail to recognize the ancient descriptions. Our general impression is that most diseases are the same now as they have been in the past.

Descriptions of disease vary according to the writer's point of view and his understanding of the cause of disease. We believe that all infections, which include the communicable diseases, are due to living germs. The ancients looked upon a disease epidemic as punishment by an offended god, or as the result of an epidemic constitution which made the conditions of life favourable to the epidemic state.

It is only within recent years that towns have ceased to be overcrowded filthy places lacking in those sanitary facilities which are essential to human health and personal comfort. We do not know what the death-rates of these periods were, but the very slow increase in the population shows that the average life was of short duration.

Quite naturally, the first attack against disease was organized to correct the appalling insanitary conditions under which the people lived and worked. As a result, cholera, typhoid fever and such diseases as are commonly spread by infected water, were brought under control.

A sanitary environment is always essential to health. The germ diseases which flourish in our midst, in epidemic or other form, are mostly spread from one person to another in the secretions from the nose and throat. It is in these secretions that the germs leave the body, and so the transference of the secretions means the spread of disease germs.

At first glance, it would seem as if germ diseases could be controlled by the isolation of those suffering from the disease in question, thus preventing them from passing on their germs to others. Unfortunately, the control is not so simple in practice.

In the first place, the germs are there and they are passed on to others before the disease is suspected. Most measles infection is spread before the rash comes out, when the child appears to have nothing more than a cold in the head. Secondly, there are those who carry the germs of disease for long or short periods although they themselves are well. In addition, there are mild cases which never come under medical care. For the reasons given and others, isolation can be of only limited value in the control of communicable diseases and epidemics.

Questions concerning health, addressed to the Canadian Medical Association, 134 College St., Toronto, will be answered personally by letter.

the place or all about its cunningly hidden guns. What is well known is that the island of Malta is one of the most picturesque places in the world. If any trouble occurs in the Mediterranean, these two naval bases of Gibraltar and Malta will be heard from.

## Of Interest to Women

### HOW A MAN SHOULD DRESS

Clothes may not "make" the man, but they certainly help and you will find almost always that the successful man does wear good clothes.

#### First Impressions Count

The first impression of a well-dressed man is more favorable than that of the man who is carelessly dressed. In these days of lively competition, first impressions are too important for any man to cast aside lightly.

#### The Number of Suits

The number of suits, overcoats, hats, shirts, ties, socks and so on, a man has depends upon his income. For the average man, two business suits, a sport suit, a dinner suit, wrongly, but usually called a tuxedo, and a full dress suit, are enough. Each suit should fit well. The business suits should be quiet in color and pattern. The conservative suit is the only correct suit for business. The suit should always be well pressed. Shirts and collars must be spotlessly clean. A slightly frayed collar or a soiled or wrinkled necktie should never be worn. Shoes should always be well polished and in good repair. The well-groomed man does not wear "loud" ties, shirts, socks or suits. Bright-colored tie with a quiet suit is all right, however.

#### Jewelry

The correctly dressed man does not wear much jewelry and what he does wear is always of the simplest design. It may be a wrist watch or a pocket watch, either is correct. If he prefers a pocket watch, the chain should not be too heavy nor the charm too elaborate. A man may wear a scarf pin or a ring. Both should be of very simple design. Cuff studs may be of gold, silver or platinum engraved with his monogram. Emblems or badges should not be worn on the coat lapel. The best reason for this is simply that "it is not done."

#### Things Feminine Shoppers Object To

What women customers dislike most to find in grocery stores, arranged in the order of their importance, is indicated in a survey made recently in the United States, Chas. B. Jordan, chairman of the committee on retail grocery merchandising of National American Wholesale Grocers Association, says the investigation disclosed the following ten things that tend to lose customers:

1. Lack of cleanliness in store or clerks.
2. Wilted or decaying fruit and vegetables.
3. Indifferent or discourteous clerks.
4. Uncovered foods.
5. Substitution.
6. Poor service.

7. Insistent clerks.
8. Cluttered stores.
10. Poor display.
9. Incomplete stocks.

#### How Can I ???

Q. How can I make an indelible stencil ink?

A. Mix two parts of sulphate of manganese, 1 part lampblack, 4 parts sugar, all in powdered form. Then make a paste by adding a little water.

Q. How can I remove rust from steel?

A. Rub with linseed oil and allow it to soak for several days. Wipe off, then polish with powdered, unslacked lime until the rust is loosened.

Q. How can I make Russian dressing?

A. Use one cup mayonnaise, add 2 teaspoons chili sauce, 1 can pimientos chopped fine, and if one wishes, a small amount of grated cheese.

Q. How can I soften water?

A. Hard water can be softened with washing soda. Borax is also good.

Q. How can I mend a large hole in a woollen sweater?

A. Try basting a piece of material on the wrong side and darning through the patch. It will make the darn stronger and will keep the shape of the garment.

Q. How can I take away that tired-out feeling after a strenuous day of working or shopping?

A. Try eating a few pieces of good wholesome candy. The sugar in the candy will distribute energy and its beneficial result is often felt almost immediately.

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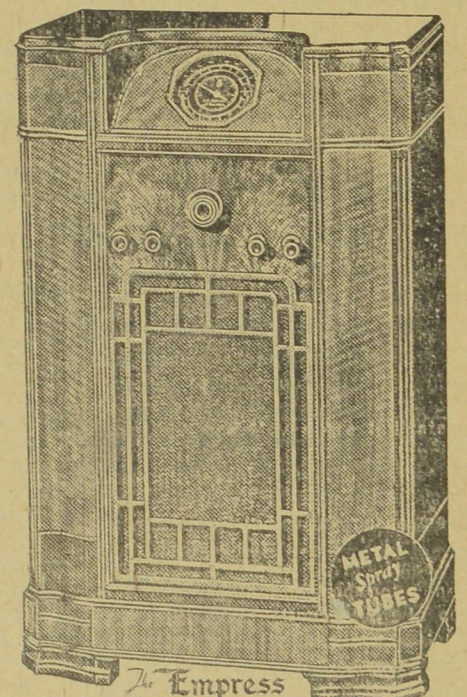
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