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No, they're not fumigating an orchard. The puff of smoke is a target for artillery practise

Our Artillery Shoots at Curling Smoke for Practice

"SOMEWHERE in the United States" our artillerymen are practising. They have to have something to shoot at. Recently ingenious soldiers rigged up the apparatus shown in the accompanying illustration. It consists of a long pole at the end of which is a container for holding two ounces of black powder. This is ignited by pulling a string. A percussion cap is set off. The resulting puff of smoke simulates a bursting shrapnel closely. Somewhere in the distance are a line of artillerymen, who want to get

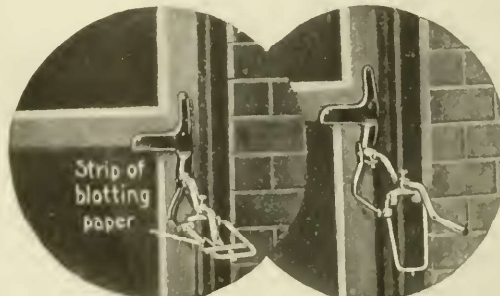
the range. As the cloud of smoke bursts in the air, it represents within certain limits the entrenched position of the enemy. As he sees the smoke curl upward, the commanding officer gives his directions to the gunners. The gun crews immediately answer with dummy rounds of ammunition. As the bombs go off in different quarters and at different heights, they see to it that the guns are trained to bear on the point where the enemy fire originates, and not on the actual place where the cloud of smoke is observed. In this way they get accurate training, and more complete preparation for actual service "over there."

It's Beginning to Rain, So Bang! Goes the Window

AN automatic device which takes care of the windows of a house or apartment, and closes them when it begins to rain, has been perfected by L. M. Phelps of Philadelphia. It is quite automatic and its action is said to be positive.

In his device a loop lever, connected with a stationary rod attached as a permanent fixture to the lower corner of the upper window sash, is held in position by a narrow strip of blotting paper. So long as the paper is dry it is rigid enough to hold the delicately adjusted lever, but a single drop of rain will so soften the paper that it allows the loop of the lever to fall and thus to release the pressure of the lever against the lower sash. Since the sash is weighted with a bag of sand or small shot, it will drop and close the window against the rain.

In addition to acting in case of rain it can be made to work at a pre-determined time by alarm-clock.



Here is an automatic window-closer operated by a strip of blotting-paper