

# If Helmets Are Good, Why Not Armor?

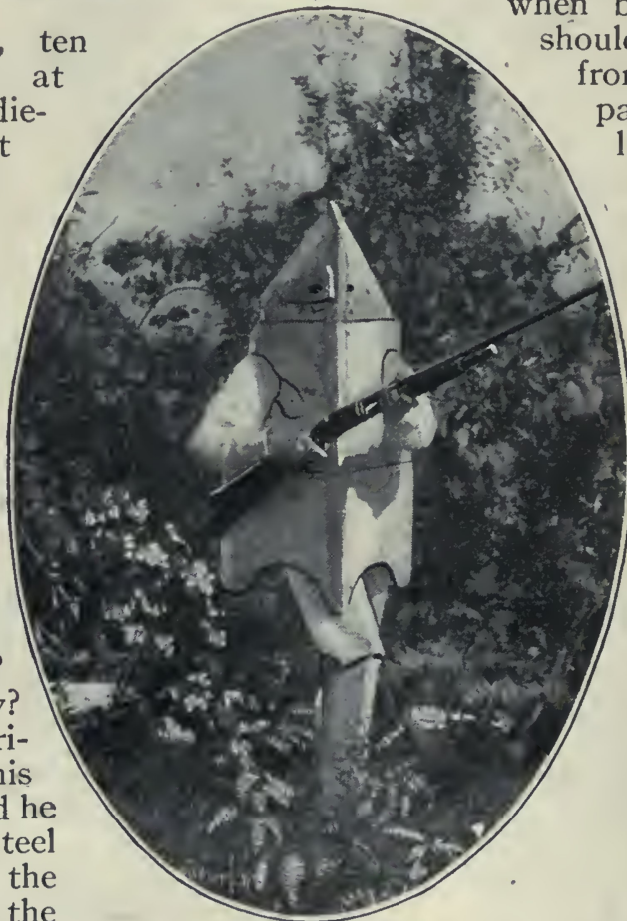
A suit of mail and a little steel fort all in one—a combination invented by an ingenious American



arrangement of catches. The three pieces are kept in position against the body by a pair of lugs which are built in the inner side of the central piece. These lugs, when brought down over the shoulder, prevent the armor from sliding off. The head part or helmet is made of lighter steel than the rest; and it is padded inside for comfort. The helmet is hinged to the central piece so that it can be raised and thrown back whenever it is desirable,—and sufficiently safe.

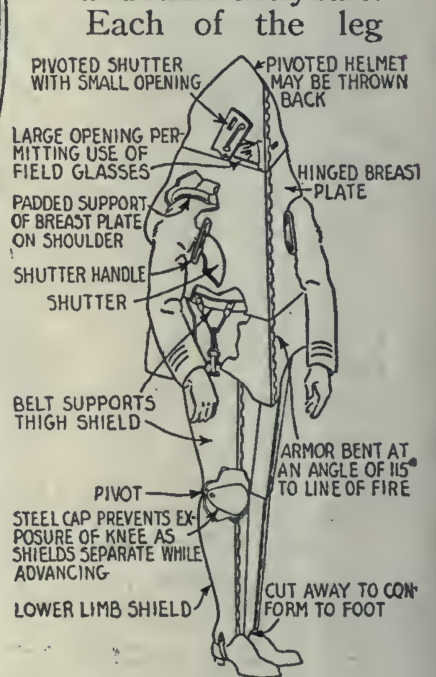
NO one suspected, ten years ago, that at least part of a medieval knight's equipment would prove serviceable in modern battles. Yet all the fighting nations, following the example set by the French, have supplied their men with steel helmets. Since the helmets have unquestionably proved their merit, particularly as a defense against bursting shrapnel, why not go a step farther? Why protect only the head? Why not the whole body? Otis L. Boucher, an American inventor, believes this perfectly practicable, and he has devised a suit of steel which covers practically the whole of the front of the body. Each one of its seven parts is formed by two steel plates which hinge sharply together at the front. It is seen at once, therefore, that since the plates are placed at an angle the bullets of an enemy are more likely to be deflected than to kill.

The main part of the armor protects the head and body. It is made in three pieces held closely together by a clever



The parts of the armor can be detached and the three larger pieces of the body folded along the edges

Details of the armor. The head and body part can be lifted off with a single swift movement



pieces is made in two parts, and each is hinged at the knee and strapped in place. The pivot-joint allows the knee to be bent to provide for perfect freedom of action in crouching or crawling.