

## MULDOON ON SOLDIERS.

And on How to Touch Things with  
the Top of Your Head.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

In answer to a recent communication by Mrs. Pinchot in THE TIMES, in which she quotes Professor Sargent against military training, I beg to offer the following letter from William Muldoon, benefactor and remaker of men who have become broken down mentally or physically, or both.

ROBERT GRIMSHAW,

Chairman Speakers' Bureau, National Security League.

New York, May 19, 1916.

Dr. Robert Grimshaw, New York University:

I believe that every male member that counts as one in making up the sum total of 100,000,000 would have a far greater prospect of becoming a real 100 per cent. man if he had, sometime during his early life, submitted to a thorough course of military training and drilling. It is my opinion that our great educational institutions could do a wonderful amount of good if they would make it compulsory that military training and drills should constitute at least one-half of the physical exercises indulged in by the students. The person who says it tends to make the boy stiff, angular in his movements, and to give him drooping, round shoulders is an ass.

I was taught in early manhood not to throw my shoulders back, stick my chest out, draw my stomach in, or hold my chin down like a goat preparing to butt, but to always try and touch some imaginary thing with the crown of my head. If one tries to do that—first understands how to try and then tries—he doesn't have to pay any attention to the rest of his physical being; that effort to touch something above him, not with his forehead, but with the crown of his head, will keep every particle of his body in the position that Nature intended it should be. And as a boy I was advised to frequently back up against the wall and make the back of my head, my shoulders, hips, heels, all press against the wall at the same time; and in that way get an idea of what was straight, or, in other words, how crooked I was becoming by drooping.

Where can you find a better, more wholesome, clean, respectable, bright-eyed, clear-complexioned, well-mannered, self-governed young man than you will find at our West Point Military Academy? I believe every youth from 17 up to the man of 40 that is taking advantage of this great and wonderful country of ours as his home, his Government, and all of the privileges, pleasures, and advantages that it offers, should feel that it is his duty to make some sacrifice in payment for what he is receiving; and that sacrifice should be to serve his country in some way, shape, or manner—the army, navy, or Diplomatic Corps. He should be perfectly willing, and even glad, to be made into a soldier, which means that he will be made into a real man and allowed to go about his profession or business until such time as his Government might call him to defend and uphold the dignity, respect, and property of our nation.

We should have equipment and supplies for 5,000,000 of men; that is only about 5 per cent. of our population; and we should have at least 7,000,000 of men trained and prepared and ready to respond in a manner that would enable us to put into motion 5,000,000 of defenders in forty-eight hours. Our standing army need only be sufficient to properly care for and keep in perfect condition all the equipment of war. If this could be done we would never have to worry about any other nation's attacking us. Besides, is there any person living, male or female, who would rather accept a mental defective, or what might be termed a 40 per cent. man, in preference to a normal, real, capable, 100 per cent. man?

WILLIAM MULDOON.

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