

13 — ARMS AND THE MAN

PETKOFF [*over his coffee and cigaret*] I don't believe in going too far with these modern customs. All this washing can't be good for the health: it's not natural. There was an Englishman at Philippopolis who used to wet himself all over with cold water every morning when he got up. Disgusting! It all comes from the English: their climate makes them so dirty that they have to be perpetually washing themselves. Look at my father! he never had a bath in his life; and he lived to be ninety-eight, the healthiest man in Bulgaria. I don't mind a good wash once a week to keep up my position; but once a day is carrying the thing to a ridiculous extreme.

CATHERINE. You are a barbarian at heart still, Paul. I hope you behaved yourself before all those Russian officers.

PETKOFF. I did my best. I took care to let them know that we have a library.

CATHERINE. Ah; but you didn't tell them that we have an electric bell in it? I have had one put up.

G. Bernard Shaw

الألفاظ والعبارات :

These modern customs

هذه العادات الحديثة

Dirty

قذر

To be perpetually washing one's
self

يغتسل دوما

The healthiest man

أحسن الرجال صحة

To a ridiculous extreme

الى حد السخف

I took care to let them know

حرصت على أن يعلموا