

lamentable absence of it on the part of the officers towards their men; nay more, not only is sympathy absent, but open contempt has taken its place. The flippant way in which many officers speak of their men is to me most painful. Within the last few years the generic name of "Tommy" for British soldiers has crept into the service, and I have no hesitation in saying that it has done, and is still doing, much mischief to discipline, for the free use of a contemptuous nickname of this kind must needs alienate the men from their officers, and is most pernicious to the officers themselves, especially the young ones. The word Tommy is in these days on almost every subaltern's lips, and not unfrequently one may hear gentlemen totally unconnected with the army talking of our soldiers in this light and airy way; gentlemen whose well being and the safety of whose families depends upon the presence of British soldiers. Indeed, it has come to such a pass that officers, in the hearing of the men themselves, do not hesitate to speak of them as "Tomnies." They seem to overlook the fact that the army is made up of all sorts and conditions of men. Serving in the ranks are gentlemen of birth and education; every trade is well represented; skilled mechanics, especially in the Royal Engineers, may be counted by hundreds; clerks and generally well-educated men are not wanting; doubtless a certain percentage of rascals too! but even a blackguard may very properly resent being called "Tommy" by a slip of a boy just fresh from school. The name is hateful to me. As a volunteer I have lived for months with British soldiers, and have fought in the ranks with them, shoulder to shoulder, and I know that they deserve respect, not insult. The kindness and devotion which, under the most trying circumstances, they have often shown to their officers and comrades would fill volumes. One instance will suffice. In the New Zealand war of 1860, a column, in retreating, had left to the mercy of the enemy two badly wounded officers. Three men, however, voluntarily remained with them, at the risk of their own lives. All night the small party lay concealed in the bush; the weather was bitterly cold, and the men stripped themselves to their shirts to provide covering for the wounded. At break of day they rose and carried the officers on their backs safely into the British camp. The three men were, I believe, decorated with the Victoria Cross, and no deed ever deserved it more. I think those two officers can never have talked flippantly of "Tomnies." And the case is by no means an exceptional one. Many a brave soldier has laid down his life in defence of an officer or comrade, and so dying, has earned a claim on men's respect for the body to which he belonged.

By professional enthusiasm I mean the passionate love of and pride in a soldier's career, which, nourished by a careful study of the lives of the men who have done most to shed lustre on it, bears fruit in the ardent desire to emulate their great example. Such enthusiasm lends interest to the driest details of an officer's daily life, and lifts him above its discomforts and annoyances. It shows itself in his every word and deed, communicates itself to those around him, rousing the sluggard, strengthening the weak, lending zeal to the careless, hope to the despondent, and quickening in all the sense of personal dignity, by ennobling in their eyes the work they have to perform. Unfortunately few of our officers are really enthusiastic in professional matters. For shooting, lawn-tennis, polo, cricket, hunting, they show plenty of energy and intelligence. I am not quarrelling with healthy recreations of this kind, for I believe that they have been the making of many of our young officers, but what I do wish to see is a little of the zeal displayed by them in their amusements directed towards their profession.

This zeal necessarily carries with it the desire to rise. What good soldier does not look eagerly for opportunities to display his hardy-acquired skill? But such personal ambition need not exclude a generous desire for the ad-

vancement of other men, if only those men be worthy of good fortune. I would say to every young officer: "Cultivate the ambition to rise in your profession; it will give you an incentive to exertion. To satisfy this ambition, carry out your duties earnestly, thoroughly, punctually, and you will soon earn the reputation of being a man to be relied on, a reputation which will always ensure you employment. Do not fancy the fruit is going to drop into your mouth without any exertion on your part. Climb the tree and pluck the fruit boldly; and the higher you climb the sweeter it will taste, when plucked, but never refuse, even though it may retard your progress a little, to lend a helping hand to the comrade climbing at your side, not forgetting, however, that the public weal must take precedence of private friendship. And do not be discouraged by slow progress, especially in the early stages of your career. If men younger, and perhaps not as well qualified, pass over your head, do not be disheartened; if you be a true soldier, your day will come. In all conditions of life there must be disappointments; accept them as inevitable, and think as little about them as possible. If you can't get what you like, try to like what you can get. Successful or disappointed, stick manfully to your work. Remember the saying of the old heathen philosopher who, when a friend was condoling with him because, though he so well deserved of the Gods, they did not shower their favours on him, as on others less worthy, answered: "I will continue to deserve well of them." (Present address of the Gods—Horse Guards, and Simla!) And don't pick and choose your work. Make yourself generally useful. No duty is derogatory to a soldier, somebody must do it, and you may as well do it as somebody else. Enthusiasm, combined with sympathy, is a sovereign force to move and sway men's hearts. The officer who possesses both, may mould his men into any shape he pleases. Led by him, no danger will appal and no disaster unsteady them; in his company, they will undergo privations without murmuring; at his bidding they will fight manfully against overwhelming odds, and, in retreat, obstinately dispute every inch of ground.

(To be Continued.)

A NOVEL PRIZE LIST.

A Militia Rifle Association has just been formed in Great Britain with the object of improving the shooting of the rank and file of the militia force, and their suggested programme is so applicable in many respects to our own militia that we quote the paragraphs:—

YOUNG SOLDIERS' PRIZE.—To be awarded, in money, to the eight recruits, including, if desired, one recruit officer, of the corps or battalion making the highest aggregate score in individual practice in the 14 days recruits' musketry course preceding the annual training. At the conclusion of the practice the first eight recruits in order of merit, including one recruit officer if required, will be selected; and the battalion whose first eight recruits make the highest score will be declared the winners.

RANK AND FILE.—Prizes will be awarded, in money, to every battalion or corps, disposable at the discretion of the commanding officer, who will furnish a report as to how the money has been expended, and who will bear in mind that the object of the association is to offer encouragement to the indifferent shots.

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS NOT ON PERMANENT STAFF.—Prizes will be awarded, in money, to every corps or battalion, to the three non-commissioned officers (sergeants or full corporals) making the best practice in the opinion of the commanding officer in the annual course. A report of the mode in which the money is expended to be made to the association.

PERMANENT STAFF.—A challenge cup will be awarded to the battalion which, in the opinion of the Commandant of the School of Musketry, Hythe, makes the best practice in the annual course. The practice may be carried out when most convenient to the battalion. The cup will be entrusted to the sergeants' mess of the winning battalion, the name of which will be engraved upon it annually.

BEST SHOT OF THE PERMANENT STAFF.—A silver cup and a purse of money will be awarded annually to the warrant or non-commissioned officer of the Permanent Staff making the highest score in twenty one rounds at 200, 500 and 600 yards, with Wimbledon