

council meeting of the O. R. A. is one of long standing. There is no doubt that at present injustice is being done at all large meetings to competitors who adhere to the Hythe position by the neglect of range officers to enforce it on those who try to evade it.

At the same time why should a man not be allowed to sit on the side of his foot if he shoot better that way?

How many league teams adhere to the strict Hythe position at 200 yards?

### The Volunteer Long Service Medal.

The following special Army Order relating to the grant of a Long Service Medal to the Volunteer Force has been issued:—

1. Her Majesty the Queen having been graciously pleased to institute a medal for the Volunteer Force, which will be designated as "The Volunteer Long Service Medal," the following instructions, to form part of the Volunteer Regulations, are issued for the guidance of all concerned:—

2. The medal will be granted to all Volunteers (including officers who have served in the ranks, but have not qualified for the Volunteer Officers' Decoration) on completion of twenty years' service in the Volunteer Force, provided that they were actually serving on January 1, 1893, and that they are recommended by their present, or former, commanding officers in the manner hereinafter prescribed.

3. In all cases the commanding officer will be the medium through whom applications will be made, and retired Volunteers will apply through the officer commanding the corps in which they last served.

4. A form of application (Army Form E 593) which provides for a record and a Certificate of Meritorious Service, to be signed by the commanding officer, will be submitted through the usual channel of correspondence to the general officer commanding the district, to whom a supply of the form, for distribution throughout the Force, will shortly be issued.

5. The decision of the general officer commanding the district upon the validity, or otherwise, of any claim for the medal will be absolutely final.

6. Service, whether as officer, non-commissioned officer, or private, must have been consecutive. Any officer who is subsequently awarded the Volunteer Officers' Decoration will surrender the medal.

7. The Volunteer Long Service Medal will be worn with the tunic only, and upon the left breast.

8. Commanding officers will forward with Army Form E 593 a nominal roll, arranged alphabetically. This roll will be forwarded in duplicate, one copy being retained by the general officer commanding the district, and the other forwarded to the Adjutant-General with his recommendation.

9. General officers commanding districts will, on January 1, April 1, July 1, or October 1, submit these nominal rolls to the Adjutant-General.

10. Names of recipients will be promulgated quarterly in Army Orders, after the publication of which the original individual applications will be returned by general officers commanding to the headquarters of the various Volunteer corps for record and retention.

By Command,  
REDVERS BULLER, A.G.

A Royal Warrant, issued from the War Office, also appears in the *Gazette*, extending the Volunteer Officers' Decoration Warrant to the Colonies and India. Power to confer the Decoration is conferred on the Viceroy of India, the Governor-General of Canada, and the Governors of other Colonies; and officers who have given qualifying service in the Volunteer Forces of any portion of the Empire are to be entitled to reckon such service as part of the qualifying service required for the Decoration. In the case of India eighteen years' service is to be the qualifying period.

### Small-Bore Rifle Bullets.

To the Editor of the *Army and Navy Gazette*.

SIR,—In your issue of the 14th inst., in a paragraph referring to Professor V. Horsley's recent lecture at the R. U. S. I. on the effect produced by modern small-bore rifle bullets, occurs the following passage: "It is strange that the settling of this question has been left to the Army Veterinary Department and a civilian surgeon." Now without wishing in any way to disparage the work of others, may I call attention to my article on this subject, published in the *R. U. S. I. Journal* as long ago as November, 1891, and from which I extract the following, "Should the missile come into contact with the dense compact tissues of the shaft of a long bone, such as that of the thigh, which has sufficient resistance to cause the ball to expend its full moving energy, it is probable that much damage will be done, and that the resisting bone will be much shattered. This does not, however, apply to the more expanded extremities of bones; being made up of soft cancellous tissue, they will be easily perforated.

As I have proved on many occasions, the amount of damage produced by modern small-bore missiles is entirely a question of resistance. They expend their force in proportion to the amount of resistance offered to their progress. If an object is sufficiently hard to entirely arrest the ball, then the whole energy de-

veloped in its flight is expended on the object struck, which accordingly sustains the full striking force.

It is an astonishing fact that experiments on the dead bodies of horses have been most misleading, and they have not afforded any reliable indication of effects produced by the missiles when striking the human body. The large heavy bones of the horse, and the dead inert masses of muscle, offer a much larger amount of rigid resistance to penetration than do the smaller bones and the softer flesh of a living man, and they are damaged accordingly. The question, however, now no longer requires any experimental inquiries, as we have the results of actual war to refer to. The Mannlicher (.315 bore) was used by about half of the Constitutional army at the battles of Coucon and Placilla, fought in Chili during Balmaceda's rebellion. Medical reports received from this source all tell of the extraordinarily slight character of most of the wounds produced by the small missile which came under treatment. The surgeons engaged have unanimously expressed their astonishment at the mitigated character of the wounds, the absence of shock, and the rapid recovery of the wounded. "Simple holes drilled plum through" is the graphic way in which one surgeon describes the injuries. With bone wounds the damage done was found to be proportionate to the amount of resistance offered, but many were uncomplicated key-hole perforations. For a *resumé* of the treatment of over 1,000 cases of injury by the Mannlicher rifle, I beg to refer your readers to an article and statistics by Dr. Stilt, of the U. S. Navy, and also to an article in the *Lancet* of July 9, 1892. From the latter it appears that of 1,008 cases of Mannlicher wounds treated, 936 were discharged, cured, or improved. Practical evidence of this kind must vindicate the so-called humane character of the new rifles, and dispose of the erroneous conclusions drawn from experiments on dead horses.

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Surg.-Captain.

Gibraltar, April, 1894.

Recent Parliamentary returns give a number interesting figures relating to the religious beliefs of soldiers and sailors. In the army 137,764 officers and men are returned as belonging to the Church of England; Presbyterians, 15,015; Wesleyans, 10,938; other Protestants, 1,621; Roman Catholics, 35,965; Mohammedans, Hindues, Jews, etc., 764; religion not reported, 1,096. These figures do not include the native forces in India. In the navy 49,200 officers and men are returned as belonging to the Church of England; Wesleyans and other Protestant denominations, 8,300; Roman Catholics, 5,900; Buddhists and other non-Christian creeds, 600. These figures go to prove that out of every thousand officers and men in the army, 686 belong to the Church of England, 75 to the Pres-