

us to be a great improvement. The squad is to be instructed in skirmishing as soon as the elementary drill in close order has been learned, but for the regulations for this we have to go to Part VIII., and the whole subject may be more conveniently treated subsequently.

In the second part, "Company Drill," we find some important changes. The two subaltern officers of the company are, after acting for more than eighteen years as "Guides," once more relegated to the supernumerary rank to command (nominally, of course, so far as close formations are concerned, the two half companies), while the two senior sergeants are right and left "Guides," being always, except when the company is extended, or happens to be broken up into column of half companies or sections, on the right and left flanks of the company respectively. We doubt very much whether the substitution of sergeants for lieutenants as guides is a wise step, but we never could see the object of making the guide on the reverse flank move to the rear when he was not actually directing. Now he is always to remain in his place, and the marker is always when not actually giving a point, in the supernumerary rank, so that the "covering" is never clouded by him. Nothing could be simpler or better than this arrangement. The flank by which the men are to dress is always to be specified, and the touch is always to be to the right in line and to the left in column, unless otherwise ordered.

We have said that the markers are always in the supernumerary rank when not actually engaged in giving points. We should have mentioned that there is an exception to this when a company takes open order. There seems to be a trifling omission in the rules for "open order." On the word "*Shoulder Arms*" after the general salute we are told that on the word "arms" the officers will recover swords, etc. Probably this should have been preceded by the sentence "Arms will then be shouldered." We find, again, that "open order" may be taken without points, and also that it may be taken on the move.

Of course, there is no *wheeling* into line, and the word of command for *forming* into line has been changed. It is now "*Into line—Left (or Right)—Form.*" "*Break into column to the right (left)*" has become "*Column to the right—right about turn,*" followed by "*Right (left) form—Quick march.*" It will be observed that the old "Rifle" practice of turning (or facing) about on the caution, which was adopted officially (in 1870, if we remember rightly), has now been again abandoned. Formations to the front or rear from files or fours are described, but those to the right or left are omitted from Company Drill. They are, indeed, given in Squad Drill, but it is there explained that they are not to be used except "when necessary, for guards and for ceremonies." The subject of marching past, fully described in Company Drill, we may conveniently defer till we come to the Battalion. The company is to be instructed in skirmishing, and then in the Attack. But here again we are referred to Part VIII., which we shall consider as a whole later on.

(To be continued.)

Personal.

Capt. Alex. Roy, No. 4 Co., 65th Battalion, has been appointed Brigade Major of the Sixth Military District, in succession to Lieut.-Col. Hughes, who resigned upon appointment as Chief of Police for Montreal.

Lieut. Lang, R.E., who has been appointed secretary to the Military Commission, is a brilliant '83 graduate of the Kingston College. He was appointed at Chatham, Eng., to a coveted aide position, and when with Col. O'Brien in British Columbia preparing plans for proposed fortifications was left in sole charge of the survey.

Capt. H. C. Freer, of "D" Co., Infantry School Corps, who with Capt. Sears of "C" Co., Toronto, leaves in January to join the Imperial regiment to which he belongs, was banqueted at London on Monday evening. Both of these officers belong to the South Staffordshire Regiment. Capt. Freer, who is a graduate of the Royal Military College, served first with his regiment in Egypt. He joined "B" Co. at St. Johns, Que., and in 1885 was A.D.C. to Gen. Middleton in the North-West. He was lately transferred from "B." to "D" Co. Capt. Sears served also in Egypt. When he joined the permanent force here he was attached to "C" Co. at Toronto. During the North-West rebellion he was brigade-major of Col. Otter's Battleford column. He was banquetted last week by the officers of the Toronto brigade.

Theophile Edouard Ayotte, who at the age of 18 left his home in Montreal to join the French army, has just returned to that city, crippled by disease in his leg, and with a life pension of 600 francs as well as a medal d'honneur. Ayotte enlisted in the 2nd Foreign Regiment, which corps is composed wholly of foreigners, and numbers 6000 men. He joined the regiment in Algeria, where he remained for over a year. There he met another young Canadian, Jean Louis Renaud, who was also a soldier. Ayotte and Renaud volunteered for service in Tonquin, and

arrived in that country on a French man-of-war towards the end of 1886. Renaud died shortly after. Ayotte took part in several engagements with the fierce Black Flags, pirates of the worst kind. On his medal is the effigy of the Republic, with the legend "Republique Francaise," and on the reverse the following battles: "Sontag, Bac-Ninh, Fou Tcheon, Formosa, Tuyen-Quan, Pescadores, 1883-85."

The New Wimbledon.

(United Service Gazette.)

In our issue of October 20 we stated that practically "the battle of the sites" would resolve itself into a question of Government assistance, and the adoption of Brookwood has amply justified our anticipations. In fact, the Government has scored all along the line, for Pirbright, the original sight offered, is Brookwood to all intents and purposes. We presume, therefore, that the "mirage" question, which was supposed to militate against the adoption of this site, has received its quietus; and, knowing something of the ground selected, we shall be extremely surprised to find that it really has any foundation in fact.

The association having now, if we may say so, come to its senses, and closed with the offer of the authorities, let us hope they will also show their good sense by at once making their council a representative one of the volunteer force as a whole, for which it professes to cater, but which is very far from being the fact. Lord Wantage, in his admirable letter to the *Times*, shows that he, at any rate, is willing to sink his own personal feelings for the general welfare, and he makes a distinct statement as to the future action of the association in the nature of providing ground for the practice of field-firing, and generally raising the shooting of the volunteer force as a whole, which is most decidedly the proper course to pursue in the best interests of the association itself, and one which doubtless the authorities would insist upon if they are willing to give a free use of public property and allow Bisley Common to be to some extent shot over. A careful perusal of Lord Wantage's letter seems to imply that he does not contemplate retaining the position of chairman of the association. We can only hope that this is not so. There are many ornamental members on the council whose names we could well spare, but his Lordship is not one of these. We would, however, strongly urge the council to at once strengthen their numbers, or elect an entirely new council, on which we desire to see the names of some of our most prominent metropolitan and other commanding officers who are thoroughly in touch with the feelings of their men, and who can take a broad view of the necessities of the case, and not be merely a registration board for the aims of the shooting crack.

Let anyone cast his eyes back on the programme of the association for the past ten years, and point out wherein any serious effort has ever been made to cater for the recruits, the young shootist, and the rank and file generally of the force. We see year after year the same household names carrying off the highest honours at Wimbledon. In the great majority of cases, of what value are these men to their parent corps? Do they, as a rule, perform more than the minimum number of drills to constitute them "efficients," and thus able to compete at all in Wimbledon. We fancy some of our metropolitan commanding officers could give a very sufficient answer to this. Whilst no one would regret more than we should to see the new Wimbledon going backward, it will assuredly do so unless new blood is infused into the governing council, whose programme in future must be to strengthen the bonds of volunteer shooting generally and not of one branch in particular. By the adoption of what is, to all true intents, a Government site, let us also hope that the council will be wise enough to set their house in order in the matter of "uniform" when shooting.

By all means let members of associations, such as the North or South London, or Irish clubs, shoot in mufti, and encumber themselves with telescopes, paint boxes, and ammunition portmanteaus, with all the paraphernalia dear to a "crack shootist" in the matter of adjustable sights, etc.; but for pure military shooting, such as the force would have to undertake if ever called out for service, let all these "adjuncts" be sternly discarded, and every man go to the ground equipped as a soldier and not as a magpie. The distance from London will probably be quite sufficient to keep away the objectionable element of "Arrys" and "camp followers," to whose proceedings it undoubtedly is owing that the necessity has arisen for seeking a new Wimbledon at all. If this is not found sufficient, a stiff gate entrance and also railway fare for all persons not in uniform will quickly remedy this evil, which must be met with a firm hand from the outset. The "picnic" element also, doubtless, has received a well-merited death-blow. Our volunteers are all civilians, and as such have plenty of opportunities for amusement all the year round, and it cannot be necessary, because for ten days or a fortnight they go under canvas, that "high jinks" should be part of the programme.

With our Regular Army the case is different. They are always at work, and at times relaxation is a proper thing for them; but the Volun-