

REGIMENTAL PETS.

Collectors of cat and dog anecdotes might do worse than try their luck with regimental pets. In his "History of the Cold-stream Guards," just published by Messrs. Innes & Co., Colonel Ross narrates how the regiment's pet dog Toby amused himself and made the soldiers laugh by chasing the enemy's cannon balls that went rolling along the battlefield of the Alma. Man and dog took the deadly sport as cheerily as if it were a game at cricket. At that same battle the Black Watch had a pet cat, christened, from its native land, Bulgarian Bell. After the fight began, Lieut-Colonel Wheatley asked where the cat was. You would have thought the gallant colonel must have had something more serious to occupy his mind. He must have been reassured when he saw Bell quietly watching the burly-burly (perhaps purring over the same) from her corner in a Forty-Two man's haversack. Says Mr. Archibald Forbes, in his "History of the Forty-Second" (Cassell), "the man who carried the cat and took care of it was exempted by the company from fatigue duties, his turn of carrying the company's kettles, and other drudgery." The Forty-Second cat, probably the only cat, says Mr. Forbes, that ever went into action, died at Balaclava. In the same book Mr. Forbes narrates the history of the two most famous pets of the Black Watch, the dog Pilcher and Donald the deer. Pilcher was a brick. He was "severely wounded" at Quatre Bras, but "would not quit the field." He was in action at Waterloo. He marched with his glorious regiment to Paris, curling up his tail, you may be sure, to the music of the pipes. We suppose Pilcher must have known a Forty-Second man at sight—from his tartan, his red beakle, his general get-up—if he did not know him personally. For if the regiment chanced to be dispersed in detachments on duty in the old country, Pilcher would visit them all in turn. Though he was often long absent on his tour, his friends never felt uneasy about him. They knew he was paying his visits, and that sooner or later he would return to his head quarters. Donald, the deer, who first became known sixty years ago, always marched at the head of the regiment, "along-side of the Sergeant-Major." The Dublin folk knew him well, the roughs especially, when they crowded the Forty-Second guard party's line of march to and from the castle. A rush from Donald, head down, would have been as disagreeable as a bayonet charge; so the idlers kept out of his way. He had his likes and dislikes. He loved the Scots Greys, who gave him oats and litter to make his bed with. He disliked the Bays, who, succeeding the Greys, stopped his oats and straw. So Donald "declared war against all Bays, whenever and wherever they approached him, till at last a Bay trooper could scarcely venture to cross the Royal Square without looking round to make sure that Donald was out of the way." In an evil hour Donald first tasted whiskey and sherry. The habit grew upon him. Giving Donald liquor was declared punishable by fine. In the first forties the Black Watch, leaving Ireland for Corfu, were forced to part with Donald. "It was really an affecting spectacle to see poor Donald overthrown, tied with ropes by those he loved so well, and put into a cart to be carried off. His

cries were pitiful, and he actually shed tears as, indeed did some of his friends." Lord Bandon took charge of him, and put him into Bandon. But Donald "declined having any intercourse with either man or beast . . . he harboured in out-of-the-way places to which no one could approach." He fell into dangerous habits, and poor Donald had to be shot.

SEVERE BRONCHITIS YIELDS PROMPTLY TO DR. CHASE'S SYRUP OF LINSEED AND TURPENTINE.

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Yorkville Fire Station,
Toronto, March 3rd, 1897.

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By order of the Board.
S. C. WOOD, Managing Director.
Toronto, 27th October, 1897.

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