

In the current issue of the English Illustrated Magazine there is an illustrated paper on "The New Navies," by W. Laird Clowes. It takes the form of a conversation between a retired captain, who fondly lingers over the "beauty" of the old vessels, and a gunnery lieutenant (Tompion) of the new school. "She certainly looks as if she could go," admitted the captain, after seeing a picture of the Blake. "Go!" retorted Tompion. "She has the speed of an Atlantic greyhound, and almost the force of a battleship. Go! I should think she can. I'm glad that they sent her over the other day for the New York people to look at. She can do her 25 statute miles an hour. If the Blake and her sister, the Blenheim, were to start simultaneously from points 1,000 miles apart, say Portsmouth and Lisbon, to-morrow morning at breakfast time, their captains might breakfast together at the usual hour on the following morning, and have plenty of time to spare. Steaming in opposite directions, they are capable of approaching one another at the speed of 4,400 feet in a single minute. That is the speed of all but one or two of the very fastest express trains."

It will be a matter of great regret if the brilliant uniform of the Royal Horse Artillery should be lost to the British Army, yet if the scheme which it is understood is now being considered for the reorganization of the Artillery comes to anything, it will disappear. The proposal is to merge the R.H.A. into the R.A., and several advantages would accrue from the incorporation of the two forces; but in view of the fact that the masters of the military wool and web have for years striven with conspicuous success to make uniforms as ugly as possible, everybody who takes an interest in the service would be glad to hear that the scheme has fallen through, and that the well-known uniform of the Royal Horse Artillery has been preserved to us. At present the R. H. A., says the Court Journal, have a numerical superiority of horse, consequently they are able to mount more men and place fewer on the gun carriages, but beyond this there is little difference between a battery of the Royal Horse Artillery and one belonging to the R.A. It is thought that by sharing out the horses, as would of course be done in the event of the two branches of the Artillery being merged into one, a better equalisation would be effected, and there would be further advantages in a simplification of organisation; but surely the objects of the proposed incorporation could be brought about without affecting the individuality of the Horse Artillery. It seems rather strange that the authorities should be dissatisfied with the artillery, considering that it is not so very long ago since it was reorganized.

Congress is ever glad of a pretext for glorifying the American Navy; but now and again fate would seem to decree that this enthusiasm shall be tempered by very serious drawbacks. Just now the authorities are confronted with top-heaviness in at least two gunboats, the Machias and the Castine. To sacrifice them altogether, would tend to establish the oft-repeated charge that the United States is still in the infancy of ship-building; so the doubtful expedient of lengthening the vessels has been decided upon. They have been ordered to proceed to Norfolk, Virginia, where they will be lengthened, and otherwise altered in accordance with the recommendations of the Walker Stability Committee for the removal of top-heaviness.

The late Gen. Mellinet, of the French Army, who has just died, was a total abstainer all his life, and up to the time of his death, which occurred at the age of ninety-five years, was healthy and vigorous.

The death is announced of Maj. Gen. C. Towers-Hilliard, Madras Staff Corps, at the age of 69 years. Gen. Towers-Hilliard entered the Indian army over 50 years ago, and retired in 1879 with honorary rank.

The death is announced in France of Lt. Col. B. F. Domville, retired list, late Royal Horse Artillery, at the age of 51 years. The deceased, who served with distinction in the Afghan Campaign, being mentioned in despatches, entered the army in 1864 and retired in 1891.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Brigadier-General H. H. Kitchener, C. B., Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, to be a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.

The Duke of Connaught, commanding the Aldershot District, has issued a stringent order regarding the laxity in dress shown by some of the corps under his command. After calling upon the officers commanding to co-operate with him in strictly carrying out the orders of the Army in regard to dress, His Royal Highness points out that the sealed pattern is to be adhered to, and unauthorised articles of clothing are forbidden to be worn—even in their own lines—by officers or men. Officers should set a good example in this respect. Individuals or parties attached to units at Aldershot are to be inspected on their arrival in camp, and a report made through the usual channel if their uniform is not according to regulation. His Royal Highness desires to call special attention to the undermentioned points: The field service cap is only to be worn by officers, staff, and infantry, at manoeuvres, and at night; troops supplied with the round forage cap are to wear the field service cap at manoeuvres, on fatigue and working parties, and in billets; putties are only to be worn when authorised by Army Regulations; collars are not to be worn with the patrol jacket by general officers.

A great deal of attention is now being given to the important matter of route marching, both in the Dublin district and at the Curragh. This is an important part of the training of the infantry soldier, and its importance has long been recognised by Major Gen. Moncrieff at Dublin, and Lord Ralph Kerr at Curragh camp. Indeed, these two officers are fully alive to the advantage of giving the troops under their command plenty of field-training, and a great deal of useful work is carried on both at Dublin and at the Curragh about which the public hear nothing. These two centres are very little behind Aldershot in respect to the thoroughness of the training which the troops receive, and in this matter a great advance has been made since Lord Wolseley assumed the command in Ireland, though it ought in fairness to be said that both Gen. Moncrieff and Lord Ralph Kerr deserve a great deal of credit for the painstaking efforts they make to give the troops under their command a thoroughly practical training. It has been said that Belfast and Cork are very behind hand in this matter, but it must be borne in mind that the general officers commanding at those centres have but a small number of men under their immediate supervision at the district headquarters at Belfast and Cork. At Dublin Gen. Moncrieff has a couple of regiments of cavalry and six battalions of infantry, while at the Curragh and adjoining station of Newbridge Lord Ralph Kerr has at his disposal one cavalry regiment, two horse artillery batteries, two field companies Royal Engineers, and three infantry battalions. The two officers named, therefore, have the means for doing work which the commandants

at Belfast and Cork do not possess.—Belfast News Letter.

Despatches from Spzia speak of a successful trial made on Thursday of a new submarine boat. The craft is specially adapted for use in warfare, and, under the command of Captain Scoti, when all was ready, immediately disappeared under the water, and thus traversed the entire length of the gulf, returning to the surface in close proximity to the training ship Maria Adelaide, against which it feigned to discharge a torpedo.

The appointment of Adjutant-General of the Bombay Army, vacated by the appointment of General Gatacre to a district command, is likely to be filled, we understand, by Colonel R. L. H. Curteis, late of the Bedfordshire Regiment, who has been an Assistant Adjutant-General on the Bombay Establishment since July, 1890, and was previously Deputy Assistant-General at the Horse Guards.

Not twelve hours old, and yet to have been already knighted with the military order of valour! Surely this was a reward for temerity shown in coming into the world, with the addition of being brave enough to have become a Bulgarian Prince—a by no means too safe position to hold in this world. This small infant Prince Boris is also already in command of the 4th Regiment of Infantry (most applicable title this), 3rd Regiment of Artillery, the 4th Regiment of Cavalry, and is the bearer of the collar of the order of St. Alexander. We hope it is not a weighty one, and that the men in the various regiments will understand His Royal Highness's word of command.

Col. R. Makgill-richton-Maitland, half-pay, late Grenadier Guards, has been promoted major-general by seniority in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Sir C. T. Burne. Colonel Maitland entered the Army in 1859, and obtained his present rank in 1882. He served in command of the 2nd Grenadier Guards when the emute occurred which transferred the battalion to Bermuda.

Rear-Admiral Markham will haul down his flag and return next month from the Mediterranean. It is understood that he will be succeeded by Rear-Admiral A. T. Dale.

According to the Army and Navy Journal (New York), nine ships of the United States Navy—the Columbia, Marblehead, Cincinnati, Montgomery, Boston, Raleigh, Marion, Atlanta and Alert—will be ready for commission between now and April 1; but, unless Congress comes to the assistance of the Secretary by increasing the enlisted force, it is probable that not more than one half of these vessels can be assigned to stations. The enlisted naval force of the United States is now nearer its full quota than at any time for years, but it still falls far short of the actual number required to give American war ships their full complement. Many of the larger vessels now on stations are short of blue-jackets allowed ships of their class. Two bills are now before Congress providing for the increase of the Navy. They have been considered in committees only, and so far no concerted action has been taken, looking to their adoption. At the Navy Department it is regarded as uncertain whether they will become effective in time to fit out the new vessels, and the chances are against their adoption at all. An appropriation would be necessary to enlist the additional number of men; and, in the opinion of our contemporary, any bill carrying money to make it effective is highly probable to meet with disapprobation at the hands of the present Congress.

The Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards)