

compliment implied by his selection to command the team cannot but be a source of much gratification to him. Cambridge, where the team will practise, is, we believe, Col. Bacon's native place. At all events he spent many days of his youth there, and it will be an additional source of gratification to him to visit it at the head of so worthy a body of men as the Canadian team for Wimbledon. The adjutant chosen, Capt. John Hood, of the Fifth Royal Scots, Montreal, is known all over Canada, not only as a first class shot, but also as an excellent coach, and it is safe to say that under his charge the members of the team will lose no advantages which foresight or shooting experience might secure. The appointments made during the past few years seem to indicate that the winning of a place in the Governor-General's sixty is a very powerful argument to be put forward by an aspirant for the adjutancy of the team.

The principle of pensioning public servants incapacitated by age or bodily infirmity is one long ago adopted in this country, and with which no fault can reasonably be found. Though there are certain classes of public servants not included, it is likely that they were not designedly left out when the system was inaugurated. Amongst these are the militia staff officers and the officers and men of the permanent force. There are probably none of these awaiting pension just now, so no material hardships result from allowing the matter to remain in abeyance; a deputation is about, we believe, to proceed to Ottawa to press the matter upon the attention of the Government, and it would considerably ease the minds of those affected were an assurance given that it is the intention to bring the classes referred to under the operation of the pension system.

Last Week's Issue.

We have to apologise for the many ludicrous blunders exhibited in last week's issue, which was unfortunately allowed to go to press without the supervision of the Editor. To those of our readers who do not know it already, we wish to state that the MILITIA GAZETTE is not nearly so well off in the matter of financial support, as it is with respect to the moral support and well-wishes of the force; and unfortunately cannot afford an editor or other caretaker upon whose time it shall have first claim. This is very much to its detriment, as witness the issue now written of, and which the press of daily duties prevented the Editor from supervising in type as usual. The errors are too numerous to here detail or correct; but we may be allowed to remark *en passant* that what the young men of the rural corps desire to wear when they appear at mess, is "*mess dress*," not "*a new dress*" as that born humorist the printer demanded by his unauthorised version of our ideas.

New Books.

THE ELEMENTS OF MODERN TACTICS AS APPLIED TO ENGLISH FORMATIONS—By Lt.-Col. Wilkinson T. Shaw, M.A., late 73rd and 102nd Regts., and late Garrison Instructor at Aldershot. With 25 maps and plates. Being the second volume of Military Handbooks for officers and n.c.o. Edited by Col. C. B. Brackenbury, C.B., R.A., late Superintending Officer of Garrison Instruction. Sixth edition; pp. 319; small crown 8vo. London: Keegan, Paul, French & Co., 1 Paternoster Row. Price 9s.

It cannot be denied that a knowledge of tactics, even though it be of a most elementary character, should be part of the qualifications of a militia or volunteer officer who desires to fit himself for the position and the responsibility he has assumed in taking Her Majesty's commission in any branch of her forces. The profession of arms has one peculiarity which lays a special burden on its members. No man is obliged to act on the advice of a lawyer, a physician or a clergyman unless he pleases, and he may select his counsellor among the whole number of the profession. But during war each officer and n.c.o. has his own responsibility for the lives of his men and the honour of his country. He cannot depute it to another, and his success or failure in his own sphere may and must influence the success of all operations. Surely, then, the commander of men who refuses or neglects to study the art of leading them in war is unworthy the commission he holds, not to speak of the

omission of a clear duty he owes to himself and his country. In view of the recent changes in the infantry drill and manœuvres and the increased importance which is attached to the latter, including tactics, the present volume is peculiarly suitable to the wants and requirements of our militia officers, and needs nothing beyond an ordinary knowledge of drill for the full comprehension of the lessons contained in its pages. It bridges over the gap between the drill book and scientific treatises on tactics, a gap which has hitherto deterred all but the bolder spirits from leaping over the chasm. The author has taken the individual soldier as the unit together with his weapon, whatever it may be, and so much is said of the special power of the three arms—infantry, cavalry and artillery—as seems necessary for all to know concerning each other. The organization of the smallest bodies—companies, battalions, troops, squadrons, regiments and batteries—with the space they occupy and the time required for their movements, is then explained. Next comes the application of the ordinary rules of modern tactics to English organization and existing English regulations, infantry and cavalry being first treated separately because either may be called upon to act alone. Finally the action of the three arms in combination is described so far as small bodies, less than a general's command, is concerned. Some points of interest have not been treated in the volume before us, but for the reason that up to the present time they are not recognized by any English authority. Among these is the question as to how far the present system of tactics will be modified by the long range fire of infantry and artillery. The question is incidentally touched upon in the new drill book, but is far from being yet settled. No doubt advantage will be taken of these qualities of modern weapons in future wars. But the final decision of combats must always take place at comparatively close quarters, and the officer who has mastered the handling of the three arms at moderate distances will be equal to the task of making the combinations required by any development of firearms. The rules laid down in the book are intended of course to apply to fighting against an enemy supposed to be equal in arms, training and courage. Speaking generally the tactics to be used against masses of ill-armed savages should be close formations with well protected flanks.

A glance at the contents of this well considered, thoughtful treatise on the all-important subject with which it deals, will convince the reader that its talented author has placed within the reach of all officers, a handbook containing sufficient to render themselves efficient and competent leaders of the force they command, whenever and wherever they may be called upon to act.

Contents: Study of tactics; definitions; marching by aid of sun or stars; hints on map reading;

Functions of the three arms. Characteristics and tactical units of cavalry, infantry, and artillery, their pace, frontage, depth and intervals; time occupied for marches, formations, and movements; artillery fire and projectiles.

Security and information. Advanced guards and flanking parties; advanced guards approaching villages or towns, and meeting advanced guard; march of main column.

Outposts. Division and duties of sentries, patrols, and piquets; supports; reserves; duties of commanders of cavalry and infantry piquets; distance of outposts from main army.

Reconnoitring. Infantry and cavalry patrol; movements and duties of and of their commanders; flanking patrols, scouting, connecting posts; cavalry patrols, special duties.

Attack and defence of infantry. Tactical employment of infantry in action; fire discipline; grouping of infantry men; the company of infantry in attack and in retreat; the battalion in attack and defence; bayonet attacks; cavalry attacks on infantry; infantry combats.

Attack and defence of cavalry. Tactical employment of cavalry in action: cavalry in attack, in defence, in dispersed order; squadron and also small bodies in attack; squadron vs. troop.

Attack and defence of the three arms. The three arms in combination and in attack and defence; 5 stages of the attack and 5 stages of defence; attack and defence of localities, engagement of 2 small forces.

Rear guards. Rear guards in forward march and in retreat; rear guard holding advance guard.

Plates and Maps.—General map. 1, finding points of compass by sun and stars; 2, time occupied in the movements of troops; 3, space occupied by troops on the march; 4, space and time required for marches and formations; 5, advanced guards; 6, advanced vs. advanced guards; 7, outposts; 8, posting of outposts; 9, infantry patrols and posting of; 10, infantry patrol vs. infantry advanced guard; 11, cavalry patrols; 12, cavalry patrol and point of infantry advanced guard; 13, cavalry patrol on advanced reconnoitring party; 14, infantry combats (a) engagement of two patrols, (b) company vs. company; 15, cavalry combats: (a) squadron vs. troop, (b) squadron vs. troop, latter partly dismounted; 16, three arms combined—engagement of two faces; 17, rear guards; 18, rear guard vs. advanced guard; 19, Minor war game map.