

An agitation is being carried on in the United States for the revival of the grade of Lieut-General. Concerning this the New York *Sun* says: "The importance of our military establishment is not fully indicated by its having a maximum enlisted strength of 25,000 men. It is the representative of the armed power of 60,000,000 people. It has charge of an enormous area between the two oceans, and great responsibilities of frontier defence. The army also is becoming more and more allied with the organized militia, so that the potential rather than the actual military force must be dealt with. The rank of Lieutenant-General for the officer intrusted with the command of the army of such a nation does not seem excessive." There is something in a name after all. The question will, no doubt, soon arise whether the title of "President" sufficiently indicates the importance of the office attached. Every baseball club has a "President"; why should not a great nation like that of the United States have something more imposing?

One recommendation in the annual report of the Senior Inspector General of the U. S. Army, contains a suggestion often heard with respect to our Canadian military schools. He says: "There should be a class of candidates for commissions organized in connection with the school of infantry and cavalry at Leavenworth, Kansas, to which class a limited number of promising non-commissioned officers who have served for two years with their regiments, might be sent for one year's instruction before presenting themselves as candidates for examination for commissions." Despite the strong reasoning to the contrary which can be urged, we are convinced of the desirability of opening our military schools to candidates for officers appointments as well as to those who have already had appointments conferred upon them. There is at present a course of instruction in non-commissioned officers' duties, but that does not fill the bill. The non-com's. life at the school is congenial to very few aspirants for commissions. There are constantly being added to the ranks of the militia officers men who know nothing of military duties, and who are allowed to hang on from month to month and year to year without qualifying. Once allowed in, it is hard to get rid of them. Were the school system changed all intending officers could be taught a great part of the knowledge essential to the desired position before being allowed to wear the uniform in public.

The United States cavalry—so says the army's Senior Inspector-General—does not appear to be in a very satisfactory condition. He reports that there is too strong a tendency towards the condition of mounted infantry. It often happens that the men do not seem at home in the saddle, "the horses are too nervous to admit of satisfactory pistol practice." "Some of our cavalry commanders," he says, "seem to have assumed that the horse has ceased to be the weapon of the trooper. This condition is undoubtedly fostered by our present system of classification in foot target practice. Distinction and rewards are to be earned in rifle and carbine shooting, and the cavalry must compete with the infantry. If the cavalry arm of the service were made a distinct class by itself, and excellence in all the duty belonging to its specialty was required in obtaining distinction and rewards, a much more earnest endeavour to perfect themselves in their specialties might find birth. The reports in this office do not show that any effort is being made to instruct the mounted troops in the manner of making reconnaissances; in submitting reports of rides of exploration; in setting out outposts; in drawing rough sketches that will explain reports transmitted, etc. All these things would relieve the monotony of garrison duty and be interesting to the men after so much "right by twos" of garrison life, aside from their essential importance." The same officer reports that "some of the light artillery is still plodding along with the same guns they had at the close of the War of the Rebellion, although the Prussians learned from the Austrians at Nachod, nearly a quarter of a century ago, that such guns would not

meet modern requirements. It is anxiously waiting for the new breechloading guns. Some of our light batteries at the present time not only have no practice firing, but, owing to the peculiarities of their location it is not possible for them to have any." It would appear that the U. S. artillery is not a great deal better off than our own artillery branch, whose condition has been so pathetically portrayed in these columns by that able champion "Linch-pin."

### The New "Red Book."

(Volunteer Service Gazette.)

The long-expected revised Red Book has at last appeared. It seems to us on the first (necessarily rather cursory) perusal to be the result of something like a compromise between the views of the advanced school and of those who cling to old traditions. Certainly the changes made in the English drill system are by no means as sweeping as we had been led to believe they would have been; while, on the other hand, certain small alterations may fail to be pleasing to the supporters of the ancient system. But, although compromises are never very satisfactory, it must be admitted that the editors of the new Red Book have done their work very well as far as the chapters on "manœuvres," fire discipline, outposts, etc., are concerned. The little manual before us contains, indeed, a great store of important instruction. But we must say that the value of this instruction is to a considerable extent neutralized by the fatal distinction which is still drawn between the work of the parade ground and work in the field, whether of real or simulated battle. On the former the soldier is only to occupy twenty-four inches of space, while in the latter thirty paces are allotted to him; and the aids to mathematical accuracy of formation which are insisted upon on the drill ground are swept away when the scene of action is real country. We do not believe that any useful purpose can be served by this double system. Moreover, we see with regret that although a large number of the battalion and brigade movements contained in the F. E. of 1884 have been, in accordance with the Army Orders of last April, expunged from the edition before us, all the complicated parade movements have been retained in their entirety, a new and utterly useless formality having been introduced into the "march past."

We shall, however, have many opportunities of examining the important features of the new Red Book. What we now propose to do is to give our readers a synopsis of its contents, calling special attention to the points in which it differs from the Field Exercises of 1884 as altered by the Army Order of April 1888.

In the first place, the book has changed its title. It is no longer called "Field Exercise and Evolutions of Infantry," but "Infantry Drill." In the "Definitions" we find the terms "Double Column," "Double Company" and "Pivot" omitted.

The First Division of the Book is headed "Drill," and the first part treats of Recruit or Squad Drill. In this part the changes are few and unimportant. In fact, except for one or two verbal changes, the first rules for Squad drill are the same as those of 1884, until we come to Section 5, when we find the heading "Extension Motions" superceded by that of "Physical Training," and an entirely new set of exercises introduced, many of which are to be done, or may be done, with a musical accompaniment, instrumental or vocal. Dressing a squad in single rank is a little simplified, only one man being thrown forward as a point. Of course, in accordance with the A.O. of April, the paragraphs dealing with wheeling are left out, as "forming" is now alone used for the change of front or direction of any body of troops in line. The file formation to the right about is also abolished. In drilling a squad in two ranks, the instructor, when open order is taken, will cover the flank men of the rear rank and give the word "*Steady*" before giving the word "*March*." This seems to be merely the supplying of a casual omission in the old book. More important is the regulation that a squad may take "open order" without "points," on which we shall have to make some observations later on.

A fundamental and valuable alteration is made in the formation of "fours." The new command, "*Form Fours*," was indeed introduced in the Red Book of 1862, but was abolished in 1870, if we remember rightly, in favour of the older and simpler "*Fours*." But in both these cases, "*Form fours*" and "*Fours*" were *always* succeeded by the words "*Deep*" "*Right*," "*Left*," or "*About*." The rear rank having stepped back at the word "fours," the formation was completed by a movement which, except in the case of "*Fours Deep*," was a little complex. Now the rear rank steps back, as it always did, at the word "*Fours*," and the left files step at once into their places in "*fours deep*" without any further word. If they are to turn to a flank or about, the words "*right*," "*left*," or "*about*," are added, whereupon the men turn as required. This seems to