

periment in view of the personnel of the Navy being 10,000 men short of the requirements as gauged by the existing material. It has therefore been decided, before rearranging the training-ship accommodation, to see how far the proposed plan will succeed, as it is believed that a considerable saving can thus be effected.

The official returns of the British Militia for last year have just been issued, and they show a considerable increase in the strength. The total number on the rolls at the various periods at which the regiments trained during last season was 124,692, or 8,840 more than in 1892. The proportions in which the Militia are supplied by the three kingdoms are—England and Wales, 84,414 (increase 6,625); Scotland, 15,417 (increase 1,104); Ireland, 24,861 (increase 601). Of the 124,692 enrolled 16,442 are artillery, 2,137 engineers, 105,637 infantry, and 176 medical staff.

The returns of the English Yeomanry Cavalry for the last year, prepared for Parliament, show that with a decrease in the authorized establishment of 2,305 yeomen to 11,190; there was in 1893 a decrease of 179 enrolled as compared with 1892. The whole number on the rolls last year was 10,400, and 1,390 were needed to complete the establishments of the 39 regiments, now organised as 19 brigades. Of the 10,400 enrolled 9,011 were present at last year's training, a decrease of 102; 1,087 were absent with leave, decrease 74; and 304 without leave, decrease 3. The 9,003 horses brought to the trainings are 213 below the number of 1892, and it is stated that 6,800 (decrease 221) belonged to the riders, 924 (decrease 60) belonged to relatives or friends, and 1,279 (increase 68) were hired. The strongest regiment at training was the Cheshire, which had 367 officers and men, out of 373 enrolled, the six men absent being specially excused.

It is all very well for the Germans to gibe (as one of our correspondents told us last week his German friends do) at our custom of supplying Private Atkins with a stick, or as F.A. himself calls it "swagger cane," for walking out, but there is a reason for this like everything else. Hands are a trouble to a good many people, from the ladies and gentlemen of the stage downwards. It is a national custom of ours to carry sticks, and habits to which we have grown up are the hardest to get rid of. Most regimental officers know that if they do not provide their men with a cane, it is as likely as not that they will go out walking with a bargepole or something equally handy. This is the origin of the custom, which is adopted nowadays by most regiments, of supplying a proper regimental cane from the canteen, and so securing uniformity, while preventing tendency to eccentricity, which might result in something the reverse of smart. We believe the custom is one approved by the men themselves, as well as by their officers.—Army and Navy Gazette.

Rear Admiral Compton Domville will succeed Rear Admiral Markham as second in command of the Mediterranean Squadron, and his flag captain will be Captain Archibald B. Milne, who recently gave up the command of the Osborne. Admiral Domville will be succeeded as director of Naval Ordnance by Captain Kane, of Calliope fame.

Colonel William Hope, V.C., who has commanded the City of London Artillery since 1876, will shortly resign his connection with the corps. He will be succeeded by Lt. Colonel and Hon. Colonel C. Coles, who has held his present rank since 1887.

The Admiralty have decided to try the experiment of fitting bilge-keels to some of the battleships of the Royal Sovereign class. The Majestic and Magnificent are also to be fitted with bilge-keels.

The colonelcy of the Welsh Regiment, vacant by the death of General D. MacKirdy, has been given to General F. Peyton, C.B. This officer, who is in his seventy-first year, entered the Army in 1841, and was promoted to the Generals' List in 1867. He has had no previous connection with the corps, having passed the whole of his regimental service in the old 98th Foot. He served with distinction in the China war, 1842; Punjab campaign, 1848-49; and the North-West Frontier campaigns, 1850 and 1858. He was last employed as a brigadier at Aldershot, which post he vacated in 1880.

Major-General Robert Hale has been appointed colonel of the 12th Lancers in place of Lieut.-General Cureton, deceased. Major-General Hale, who retired from the Army a few years ago, has had no connection with the 12th Lancers. There is only one general officer who has served in the Prince of Wales's Royals, and that is Major-General J. C. Le Quesne, but he is too junior an officer to obtain the appointment just yet, and consequently the post was given to the senior unattached general officer of Cavalry, Major General Hale.

The colonelcy of the 2nd Dragoon Guards has been filled by the transference of General W. H. Seymour, C.B., from the 15th Hussars, the latter regiment going to Major General Sir Baker Russell, commanding the Cavalry Brigade at Aldershot. General Sir W. P. Radcliffe, K.C.B. has also transferred from the Royal Berkshire Regiment to the Lancashire Fusiliers, the colonelcy of the former regiment being given to Lt. Gen. R. W. Lowry, C.B.

The colonelcy of the Cheshire Regiment is now vacant by the death of General Sir W. M. S. McMurdo, G.C.B., who was appointed to the regiment in 1888.

The new jointed lance, invented by Col. Earley Wilmot, has been finally rejected.

There are now serving in the British Cavalry and Infantry of the line thirty-nine captains who have risen from the ranks, viz., fifteen in the cavalry and twenty-four in the infantry. Six regimental majors have been similarly promoted.

Rear Admiral Ammen, of the United States Navy, considers that the centres of maritime power of Great Britain, belting the world, and forbidding any reasonable prospect of the United States or other Power preying upon her merchant marine, should be regarded rather in a spirit of congratulation than the reverse, by all people who speak the same language. "These centres of maritime power," he holds, "are no less the centres of a widespread manly civilization; it is only a map of the world before you and regarding carefully the areas of continents and of islands, where kind and thoughtful mothers teach the same language to their children, that the fact can be appreciated in its full significance, that a great family is widely spread over the earth, to work out a great destiny. In families, in groups, and singly, for centuries the founders of these centres have left their home as emigrants, with tears in their eyes, yet with strong arms and brave hearts, to meet hardships and to found homes and hearths for themselves and their offspring; and we see how well they have done it—this great family, now so widely spread, is yet in its merest infancy as regards numbers,

wealth, and power. Far be from me, or from a vast majority of my countrymen, wish to see the maritime power of the mother country seriously impaired. While it may be her pride, and sometimes a rather distasteful boast, it is a heavy load to bear; it is her necessity—all who speak her language and are gifted with a sentiment of kinship may wish and hope to have her endure it until the preponderance of her offspring scattered over the wide world, may give her that moral and material support that will suffice to aid in her protection from envious enemies who may wish to assail her."

An army is not a sledge hammer with a dull or pointless head, to be hurled against every hard substance that stands in its way with entire reliance on its immensibility. On the contrary, an army is essentially human, and its pulsation rises and falls as the influences to which it is subjected are sympathetic or antagonistic.—General Sir George White.

The Illinois Naval Reserve have taken possession of the brick battleship model Illinois, which was turned over to them by the general government for drill purposes. The Illinois site will be moved from its position in the water near the pier to a more convenient site on shore near the lake front, and will be used as a club, drill hall, and armory by the naval reserve.

The Leinster Regiment, Royal Canadian (100th), will be taken home from India next winter, and on arrival will be quartered in Ireland—at Tipperary.

The Navy generally, and especially that portion of it at Rio, owes thanks to Col. Howard-Vincent, who in the Times has come forward to defend the officers of the Sirius, Racer, and Beagle from the unfair aspersions and attacks which have been made upon them in several papers recently. The form of these attacks is most difficult to meet, for it consists in the main in crying up the action of the United States officers, while insinuating not obscurely, that these gentlemen are performing the duty of their British confreres. Colonel Howard-Vincent bears testimony as a personal witness to the arduous services which have been rendered by the officers and men of the above-named vessels. He declares to have been due to the tact and zeal of the British Munster and senior naval officer, supported by their foreign colleagues, that the densely populated city of Rio has been saved from serious bombardment. He adds: "What Her Majesty's ships have been able to do, that they have done, Naval officers have conducted mail steamers to a safe anchorage, have escorted passengers embarking and disembarking, and have afforded British cargoes (and there have been hardly any others) protection from the fire of either side, although the nature and destination thereof were often a subject of legitimate suspicion. As an instance, I may mention that Admiral de Mello threatened to stop the Royal Mail steamer Thames, on board which were my wife and myself, because he was not allowed to arrest certain passengers he believed to be sailors going to man a Government steamer. Capt. Lang intimated at once that this would not be allowed, called his command to quarters, and directed Capt. Hicks to steam out very slowly directly under the stern of the Aquidaban. Better counsels prevailed upon the flagship, and the green flag was lowered in salute of the red ensign."

Some interesting practical experiments were carried out by the garrison at Kars on October 4 last, when the following programme was adopted at the general inspection: (1) Silencing a besieging battery of four guns at a range of 2,300