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Note and Comment.

The service papers in England have so far made little comment on the recently issued order respecting the wearing of medals and decorations. The *Army and Navy Gazette* just to hand, however, has this to say: "The amendments to those clauses of the Queen's Regulations which deal with decorations and medals have been issued none too soon. They introduce uniformity where great divergence of practice has hitherto been the rule. At the mess-table in particular, officers have very generally appeared incapable of arriving at an agreement about a detail which, however small in itself, is one which catches the eye of any stranger coming amongst them. Although, however, this want of an established service custom has been the immediate cause of the intervention of the authorities, we must in justice remember that it is to the use of the ambiguous phrase "may be worn," in the old text of the orders on the subject, that we owe all shortcomings. Further, we are by no means certain that the present edict against "miniatures" with the shell-jacket is a satisfactory solution of a difficulty which need never have arisen. Ribbons "sewn plain on" are certainly not ornamental. The plan can hardly be considered convenient, either; for experience teaches us that the necessarily frequent renewing is good for no one but the tailors. Another point. The so-called regulation miniatures are unfitted for ordinary evening-dress. The smaller size, as generally worn on the continent, is quite large enough, and it will, we suspect, soon come to be usual with us also."

The *Volunteer Service Gazette* last to hand devotes a flattering editorial note to the lecture on Infantry Fire Tactics recently delivered at the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, by Major Mayne, R. E., of the Royal Military College. Major Mayne is recognized as one of the best authorities on this subject.

Concerning the question of the use of the pistol at Bisley next year, a correspondent thus writes to the *Volunteer Service Gazette*: "I think the use of the pistol would take well at Bisley, and be highly remunerative to the N. R. A. Why not adopt the same rules as in America for pistol and revolver competitions? The required 'pull off' (4 lbs.) at Bisley is too heavy for really good work. In America 3 lbs. is the minimum; and if we have contests at fifty yards, a heavy pull is fatal to fine shooting, and by the N. R. A. enforcing a 4 lb. pull, the weaker, or rather nervous competitors, are very seriously handicapped. I wish the N. R. A. would sanction single pistols at next year's meeting

—it would be pleasant recreation for hundreds, and at a reasonable cost. They are an immense success in America and France—and why should England wait?" The correspondent further remarks on the fine shooting powers of Colt's revolvers, stating that he has one that will strike a penny nineteen times out of twenty, at nearly twenty yards, off-hand.

Belleville shows an example of activity in military matters which might well be emulated in some of the other and larger cities. Without any special advantages, and with many drawbacks to contend against, the officers of the Fifteenth Battalion have raised their corps to a high standard of excellence, and a well directed effort is made to keep up the interest in all ranks. A synopsis of a lecture on Discipline recently delivered by the commanding officer appears in this issue; and a perusal of it will lead to the conviction that Col. Lazier's sentiments are those best calculated to ensure success in dealing with his corps.

The Gatling gun has recently been fitted with an electric motor which has proved an unqualified success. It has been necessary, heretofore, in operating these guns, to have the services of two men, the gunner, whose duty it is to train the gun and drop the shot where they will do the most execution, and also a man to operate the crank which sets in motion the mechanism which causes the balls to hail down upon the enemy. The adaptation of the Crocker-Wheeler motor not only does away with the services of the latter, but enables the gunner to train and operate the gun at will by touching an electric button. So

completely is the Gatling under control of the gunner, that he is enabled to fire either a single shot, or to pour them out at the rate of 1,200 per minute. The motor is attached to the breech of the gun, and moves with in every direction. It is so arranged that it may be disconnected from the gun mechanism instantly; by means of a specially defined clutch, should the motor be damaged by shot or otherwise, when the crank referred to may be used. It is expected that a gunner will be able to do more execution when not disconcerted by the man at the crank, as the power is applied more steadily, and because of the absence of wobbling, which is unavoidable when the crank is operated by a man.

A novel expedient has been adopted by Sir Frederick Roberts to improve the shooting of the men under his command in India. For every bullseye made by a soldier in his regulation practice at the butts an anna is given from the public funds, the amount being payable at the close of the firing. The innovation is very popular with Tommy Atkins, to whom a few stray annas are not an unimportant consideration, but it is doubtful if much practical good is to be accomplished by a system of rewards such as this whereby a chance "bullseye" would earn more for one careless soldier than a whole series of carefully fired "inners" would bring in to his really more skilful comrade.

It is denied at the War Office that there is any intention of withdrawing the magazine rifle. Looking at the matter from a purely trade point of view, such a step would be felt severely in Birmingham, where