

Broad Arrow are retained, the tinted wrapper, chatty notes, records of regiments, and illustrations have been added from the older paper, the whole combining to form a most attractive paper with considerably more reading matter than either of the constituent parts. The whole issue is so full of interest that it would be impossible to enumerate the articles.

The *Volunteer Service Gazette* of 27th Feb. contains an account of the winter meeting of the N. R. A., which would be well worth reprinting if space could be found for it, as many of the subjects which have been fought out at the Dominion meetings were discussed. A letter from Mr. Lowe proposing a sliding wind gauge is also important.

The *Volunteer Service Review* of 2nd March contains an essay on the better training of infantry, by Major C. A. Baker, in which he deals very roughly with the Field Exercise. Much space is given to the N. R. A. meeting.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ENGLISH VOLUNTEER MEDICAL SERVICE AND FOR THE UTILIZATION OF VOLUNTEER MEDICAL AID IN WAR.

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(Continued from page 348.)

PART II.

XXIV.—VOLUNTEER WAR AID FOR THE ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE.

In the preceding paragraphs I have dealt with the question of the organization of a medical department for the volunteer forces, so as to place that service, as far as medical matters are concerned, on a completely independent footing, so that in case of foreign war draining the country of all the regular medical service, the volunteer force could take the field in England fully equipped as regards ambulance arrangements.

But quite apart from this home defence duty of the volunteers, it is most easy so to throw open the door of the volunteer service and to utilize its organization as a frame-work to enable a contingent of trained volunteer medical aid to take part in our foreign wars; and in no department of the service is such a volunteer aid so needed, or would it be so useful, as in supplementing the medical service of the regular army in its endeavors to cope with the heavy demands made on the army medical staff by any great campaign.

The English military medical service is the only great national service in the world trusting entirely to its own permanent officers with the colors for war and peace demands.

Conscription and general military service in all the great nations catch in their clutches the whole profession of medicine, and places it at the disposal of the state as a war reserve, while the varied character of the conscripts serving in the ranks of the foreign armies render available for subordinate work many chemists' assistants, druggists, cooks and a variety of persons completely absent from the rank of the average British regiment. We in the army medical service stand, then, completely isolated and alone as regards our power of meeting war emergencies by medical reserves, and this, too, although there are in England abundant medical men full of public spirit ready, if called upon and suitably dealt with, to serve with us as a temporary and supplemental aid in foreign war. Many English civil surgeons have served in the Continental wars as ambulance doctors, but we have in our army no definite place, no defined status, no organized rules and no authorized code of regulations placing in a clear and unmistakable light before the younger members of the civil profession of medicine the terms and conditions on which we can accept their temporary services for a campaign.

We seem, as it were, to starve in a land of plenty, and besides very frequently sending out to foreign war medical officers of the regular army but shortly returned from trying foreign tropical service, we place great difficulties in the way of efficient home work in the garrisons owing to the paucity of regular medical officers remaining in the country for duty.

The volunteer medical staff and its due organization would, I think, abolish many existing difficulties on both these heads, and do very much to aid us in attaining that efficiency in war medical work which is so much dependent on an abundant medical *personnel*.

It is not to our interest as a specially selected staff of the regular army to rush into the professional market at the outbreak of any great war, and by a competition, which under the circumstances must be rather feeble, to admit into the permanent medical service of the army a vast number of medical men. Crowds so recruited in an emergency cannot be always really efficient men, and crowds so placed on the army permanent list encumber promotion and in peace time are a great and needless expense.

We want a means of employing for a campaign, and for a cam-

paign only, a number of young active trained medical men to supplement the regular medical service in its exhausting work.

I do not think there is any chance of attracting to foreign war medical men of mature years, and settled definitely in civil practice, nor do I think we particularly need such men in any large numbers, and it is only in case of actual invasion such men should be called upon to take the field. What we need to my mind, above all things, are young, active, energetic men with whom the question of submission to senior medical authority will not arise in any marked way, and who can remain absent from England for a year or so without the dread of their civil practice melting away during their absence.

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

A PERMANENT CORPS GRIEVANCE.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

DEAR SIR,—I have been asked to express my views, through the medium of your plucky little journal, on the ideas of "Cloudy" with regard to the standing of the officers of the permanent corps.

So many anomalies occur in the force generally that it is very hard to suggest a remedy. For instance, I, a volunteer of many years standing, recently found myself junior to a youngster who had joined barely two years, when we happened to camp with another regiment. But this is an unavoidable hardship so long as promotion by companies is allowed.

To me it appears that as doctors, lawyers, etc., who give all their lives to a certain trade, know more about that trade than outsiders, so a regular soldier, or a member of a permanent corps, who has given his whole life to that trade or profession, should know more about it than a volunteer. It therefore appears to me that when brigaded with other troops they should all have brevet rank down to the most junior sub.; otherwise, you might as well rank a volunteer who has kept a private medicine chest for five years with a physician of five years standing as rank a volunteer of equal length of service with a regular, or permanent corps man (if you like the term better).

The absurdity of gazetted a captain as a junior sub. to a permanent corps should be abolished. So soon as a man joins a permanent corps he should lose all claim to any rank he may have held previously.

THE ODD FILE.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CAMPS OF INSTRUCTION.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—Having been a reader of the many valuable articles in your journal of late from pens such as that of my old friend Captain and Adjutant Ponton, and wishing to suggest a few ideas from my own experience with the hope that others will do likewise, and thus ultimately produce perfect plans, I respectfully submit the following memoranda:

1. Brigade Camps.—The proposition that brigade or divisional camps excel all others is now accepted as an axiom by all.

2. Time and Place.—Also, that June is the best season, and, for the third military district, Kingston the place, are also accepted facts.

3. Preparatory Drills.—Before going to camp, each captain should assemble his company several times for preliminary drill. He is paid to do it.

4. Transport.—*En route* to camp, infantry should not travel on the same trains as cavalry or artillery corps. The delays attending loading and unloading horses, while interesting to those directly at work, becomes irksome to the infantry volunteer. Delays of hours always occur where infantry are mixed with other corps. At Kingston, only last year, the entire 46th and 40th battalions would have been delayed for fully eight hours at the upper station had not Col. Benson induced the agent to switch out and send down to the town those battalions. In 1872, I remember getting into camp at Kingston just as the sun rose, whereas had things been systematically arranged we should have been in camp the previous evening.

5. Drills.—In camp, drills should be short and sharp. Nothing wearies men so much as standing. Next in degree of demerit to standing, is the bad habit of marching a corps up and down, up and down, performing no movement, but "left"—"left"—"left, right, left." To rattle a corps through a dozen movements in the same number of rods, each done with precision, seems to me the way to interest as well as instruct soldiers. Men will learn much more by doing twelve movements twelve times well, than by doing one a hundred and forty-four, or two seventy-two times. Quick, precise movements are what brace up militiamen.

6. Early Morning Parade.—Unlike my genial friend Capt. Ponton, I am a firm believer in the "early morning" parade, but not as it is usually carried out. I would not have it performed on empty stomachs, or extended beyond an hour's duration. In the 45th Battalion there has long been a plan, first tried in No. 3 Company, of giving to each man, before "falling in," a tin of tea or coffee and a small piece of bread. The cooks can prepare it very easily, and men are then free from the faintness and languor characteristic of camps where the rule is to drill on empty stomachs after sleeping on a clay bed. It may be added that my own experience in athletics has always been to have a "snack" before vigorous early morning exercise. As before stated, one hour is enough for the "early morning" parade.

7. Brigade Duties.—How often, as Captain Ponton remarked, have not brigade duties been kept waiting till patience ceased to be a virtue, and all owing to the neglect or laziness of some adjutant, sergeant-major, or may be orderly sergeant. Men detailed for brigade, and in fact all duties, should be exempt from early morning and forenoon parades. Instead, however, of hanging round cookhouses, or sleeping, they should, under proper supervision, be cleaning up, folding coats, and in short making themselves look as neat as possible. The adjutant must work through his sergeant-major and orderly sergeants.

8. Amusements in Camp.—Every corps should be furnished with chorus songs and readings, as well as with ropes for tug of war and bats and balls for games, in