

similar credit for elementary proficiency in military arts? This procedure would tend to give more definiteness to the inspection, and would help to incorporate the work more fully in the whole programme of the school. A boy whose leaving certificate is endorsed with a high mark for shooting, for drill, or for "reconnaissance," will be much more likely to do himself credit in various careers in life than a boy who has failed to gain such a certificate.

Finally, we have to inquire as to the best form of organization for companies created in secondary day schools. I wish to offer a strong opinion that some further provision is necessary, beyond the present regulations for cadet corps issued by the War Office, if these schools are to be used as nurseries for national defence.

Let us notice that at the present moment large classes of society of this country have very little representation either in the Army or in the Volunteers. However unpleasant it is for us to discuss social distinctions, we cannot ignore them when dealing with a matter which is essentially connected with social good-fellowship. Suppose a bank clerk, or a young medical man, or a warehouse manager, on a small income, wishes to join a Volunteer regiment, how is he to fit in? He has not the means to become an officer, and he cannot join the privates. He has not the tastes and habits of a manual laborer, and, if he sought to join their company, both he and they would be uncomfortable.

This accounts, surely, for the fact that no cadet corps are to be found in our large English grammar schools; for it is useless to found a cadet corps unless its members can look forward to continuing their training either in the Army or in the

Volunteers. Now the Army is, on the whole, closed to poor men. I do not say this by way of complaint, but simply as stating a fact which must be taken into account in any proposals affecting the future of our boys. If, then, the Volunteer force is so organized as to allow no place socially for the educated men of small means, it is clear that there will be little use in organizing cadet corps in schools.

Hence, I venture to urge that some Volunteer organization needs to be created into which any old boys of our secondary day schools, not only those of large means, but those of straitened means, can be drafted as soon as they leave school, consisting of companies or battalions in which the privates and some of the officers are also old boys of these schools, in which the *esprit de corps* of school life will continue to play an active part, and which will involve a far less expenditure of private income than is—very properly, no doubt—involved on becoming an officer in most Volunteer regiments. Such an organization would include many of the most energetic students in our University Colleges, and it would meet the needs of many young professional men, as well as young men in business, who at present, as I have pointed out, are left out from causes for which no one is to blame, and which cannot be remedied by declaring that all men are equal.

Now, it is not for me to judge how far it is possible, or advisable, to devise such an organization, but there are some precedents to guide us. The Volunteer corps in the Oxford and Cambridge Universities have been created from a body of young men endued with a common corporate spirit, and it is possible to become a private in such a corps without any great demand upon the