

This idea, I believe, coupled with a rumor that in a few years time the Woodbine would be unavailable for artillery practice, induced the council to secure, if possible, a better and at the same time a permanent central range, at which all batteries could fire under the same conditions. The report of the Executive Committee to whom this was referred is herewith enclosed. As the committee was unable to report in time, the gun practice, in accordance with an order of the Inspector of Artillery to that effect, was held, for the eastern batteries at Port Hope, on the 29th Sept. and two following days, and that for the western batteries at Port Colborne, on the 4th Oct. and three succeeding days. A return of the scores made by the different batteries is enclosed herewith, on referring to which will be noticed the large increase in the average firing of batteries over that of last year (1885), which was the first year in which the system of preliminary and final practices was introduced. The increase in the average is, no doubt, indicative of the good results to be obtained by careful instruction and supervision in the preliminary, and of better ranges than heretofore. These meetings, conducted under the auspices of the Dominion Artillery Association, with I regret to say its short purse, cannot fail to be of service, tending as they do to promote a healthy rivalry amongst the batteries.

Handy cards, containing rules, range tables, general duties and other information in a condensed form, have been printed for the use of both field and garrison batteries. They are for sale at a nominal rate.

A list, showing the winners of prizes given by this association, is also enclosed, the necessary information having been furnished by the secretary of the Dominion Association, Capt. Donaldson, to whom I am indebted for much assistance.

The good results of the association, during the first year of its existence, have far exceeded the highest hopes of those who were instrumental in its organization, the records showing decided advance in the firing, etc., of field batteries; and the increased interest in their duties manifested by the members of the various batteries, auguring well for the continued improvement of this most important branch of the service.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

L. HOMFRAY IRVING, Lieut. T. R. G. A.,
Secretary.

Volleys in the Attack.

THE special circular lately issued by His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief, which orders that volleys are to be employed in all stages of the attack, is, we take it, a very decided and well-deserved compliment to the discipline and nerves of the British infantry. The experience of the war of 1870-71 was such that, almost without exception, foreign critics have accepted without question the dictum that during the final stages of an attack over open ground it is absolutely impossible to control effectually the fire of the fighting line. The training of the continental soldier, however, is for a much shorter period than that of our own rank and file; and it has been for some years the opinion of experienced officers that the discipline and coolness of the British infantry will render it, even in the midst of the uproar and slaughter of a modern battle, as amenable to control, as cool and steady under the devastating fire of the breech-loader, as were the squares of Quatre Bras and Waterloo under the terrible pounding of the French artillery. An oft-quoted extract records the astonishment of the Russians at the Alma that troops were to be found with sufficient firmness of *moral* to be able to attack in lines two deep. This firmness of *moral* is still the characteristic of our soldiers; and if our peace training be adequate, foreign critics will note with astonishment that troops are to be found who can be relied upon to maintain their fire discipline under any circumstances whatever.—*U. S. Gazette.*

Discipline amongst Volunteers.

CAPTAIN HODGKINSON, adjutant of the Bombay rifles, recently read a very interesting paper before the members of the corps on the "Best way to promote *esprit de corps* among Volunteers." He remarked that he wished specially to put before them his views of how they should all do the greatest credit to the corps generally, with the hope that the subject might be well discussed. He knew from experience that nothing showed the smartness of a corps like close attention to minor details. He would not have them suppose that he meant the pipeclay and button stick routine that obtained in the service: it should rather take the form of extra parades, steadiness, intelligent applications of rules, which were laid down for guidance only, to the circumstances of the moment, and thorough knowledge generally of the drill-book and its principles. The volunteer corps started with one great advantage, and that was superior education, which made good discipline easy to

them. An educated man saw at once how indispensable it was to assist by good example the higher ranks in carrying out the regimental system. A correspondent of the press in remarking on the recent German manoeuvres, said that the tents were struck about 4 a.m., the men were loafing about in the rain for four hours, and then they fell in, and the day's work began. After the day's manoeuvring was over, the corps marched to their various bivouacs, found no rations, and the Emperor gave the order to billet them in the villages. This entailed a march of fifteen miles to the corps, and he told us that the sections were well closed up, there was no straggling, and no distance was lost throughout the march. He drily remarked, "I would not have been one of the officers on that march for a great deal."

"Now, this showed what discipline would do; but they knew that, without constant, careful, and steady drill, no brigade would march fifteen miles without loss of interval, straggling and consequent spreading of the column over far more than its proper length. Mr. Farnham, the American consul in Bombay, who was a member of the Bombay volunteer corps, told the lecturer what he considered was one of the most remarkable instances of discipline in the American war. The new Hampshire regiment of citizen soldiers left New York for Baltimore with orders to march through the town without halting if they found the place disaffected. This proved to be the case, and, though the regiment was fired on from the houses and pelted with stones, they marched steadily through without returning the fire, which they naturally wished to do, because their orders were on no account to fire a shot. By individual training, the lecturer said, he meant the point of excellence to which each man could attain in the various exercises which go to make up one perfect fighting machine. The old days of brute force were past, and the soldier of to-day must be able to use his brains as well as his rifle. But true military knowledge could only be obtained by first learning the alphabet of the profession, the letters of which were goose step, squad and company drill, and rifle and bayonet exercises. Clerly has pointed out that, while the British discipline was good enough to allow of their fighting in line, other nations adhered to the column formation, to give the same confidence that obtained in a flock of sheep huddled together in a field. This argument was a very natural one, for 'clearly the transition from column to skirmishes was greater than from two ranks to one, and thence to open intervals.' The former transition had been effected by the Germans, but only by paying far greater attention to barrack square training and discipline than before."

"Among the many criticisms on our manoeuvres at Delhi," concludes Captain Hodgkinson, "the German officers laid particular stress on the fact that our regimental discipline was good, but that there was a great want of fire discipline in our infantry. They were well in hand till the attack commenced, when the officers lost all control of their men. The lecturer would not say that this was a fact; but, if it was, the cause was not far to seek—viz., that the men and officers had not learnt the routine of the drill on the battalion square, and had not so mastered the theory of their training as to be able to act independently in loose formation—i.e., for each man to act best for the good of the whole body. Now, as to collective training. Capt. Hodgkinson said he wished to include under this head not only the bare necessity of company and battalion drills, but also how they could be best carried out in the volunteer corps. There could be no thorough knowledge of battalion drill without careful and constant company drill; and it was want of company drill that the lecturer was most anxious to fill up. This question he wanted to discuss more particularly, as he was quite convinced that it was not only feasible, but might be made interesting and attractive to the companies. Captain Hodgkinson urged the necessity of trained volunteers not being satisfied with the present system of attendance at various places with such drill as their present numbers admitted of. What they required was collective training among the companies; and to effect this each company should have one or more rendezvous at which the members living in that locality could parade twice or three times in the month. He was perfectly well aware that, in a corps which comprised so many branches of mechanical training, there should be no difficulty in forming companies of artillerists, engineers, telegraph corps, &c."

Improvised Field Defences.

AT a meeting of the West of Scotland Tactical Society held in the rooms, 166 Bath street, Glasgow, on Wednesday night, Major H. D. Dunlop, R.A., Garrison Instructor, North British District, read a paper on "Improvised Field defences, including the attack and defence of villages, houses, woods, &c.," Col D. Matheson, C.B., presided.

Major Dunlop said that when asked by the secretary to give a lecture on some military subject he selected field defences, because it seemed to him likely to be of practical value to officers of volunteers; and on looking through the journals of the United Service Institution he was glad to find his view supported by his brother officer, Capt. now Major