### Gleanings.

It was a high compliment which Mr. Stanhope paid recently to the Corps of Royal Engineers when responding to "The Army" at the annual dinner of the Institute of Civi! Engineers :-

"There is no dapartment which is sacred from the intrusion of the Royal Engineers. Upon the ground, under the ground, in the air, upon the water, and under the water, the services of the Royal Engineers are called into increasing account. Railways, telegraphs, submarine mines, balloons, fortresses, barracks-these set no limits to the directions in which we have to call for the assistance or advice of the Royal Engineers. There is hardly any occasion on which special talents and special powers of adaptation to the circumstances of a particular case are required where the Government of the day does not avail itself of the Royal Engineers. In the first place, the survey of this country, so long delayed, but now happily approaching completion, has been mainly laid on the shoulders of the Royal Engineers. If I were to point to Africa, I should say that in all those great expeditions in which the English nation is carrying on, as we believe, the civilzation of the peoples with whom it comes in contact, we are every day availing ourselves largely of the services of the Royal Engineers. Or I might point to Egypt, where great irrigation schemes, due to the energy and ability of Sir C. Scott-Moncrief, have established a system which has undoubtedly been one of the most valuable, and, it may be, one of the most permanent results of the English occupation of Egypt. Or I might point to Ireland and show that even there, where the Government has to grapple with the great exigency of a sudden famine amongst the population of the West of Ireland, we have to look, and we have not looked in vain, to the assistance of the officers and privates of the Royal Engineers. Or, again, may we not for a moment look to that far distant country where, at the present moment, one who bears an honoured name in the history of the British Army-I mean Lt. Grant-is carrying on, as we hope, a gallant struggle against overwhelming odds, under difficulties which, to any one except an Englishman, would appear almost insuperable? Lt. Grant has had enormous difficulties to overcome. He has to defend himself in a very indefensible position against enormous odds; but we feel confidence in him--first, because he has, as we know, the pluck of an English officer; and, secondly, because he is the son of a man well known in the ranks of the Royal Engineers, one who has, as I believe, given to his son some of those hereditary qualities that will enable him to entrench

and defend himself even in the difficult position in which he is placed. Though possessing all those special qualifications, it is some satisfaction to know that they do not withdraw the officers of the Royal Engineers from the claim to fill the highest positions in the general ranks of the army. It is sufficient to mention the names of Lord Napier of Magdala and Gen. Gordon to prove that from the ranks of the Royal Engineers you draw not only specialists, but men able to take command of men equal with those who are engaged in other branches of the profession. Long may this connection exist and exert itself between the engeering branches on the civil side and on the military side!"

Concerning the trial at Havre of the Sims-Edison electric torpedo boat on May 2, described in the Journal of May 16, our foreign exchanges say the general opinion of the numerous experts was decidedly favourable. There were present Col. Reginald Talbot and Capt. May, the Military and Naval Attaches to the British Embassy; Major Palliser, Gen. Fredericks, the Russian Military Attache, and the representatives in Paris of almost every other power, the Japanese being very numerous. In answer to an inquiry in parliament concerning this trial Lord G. Hamilton said: "The Sims-Edison, like the Brennan torpedo, is not of a type considered suitable for use by ships at sea, and no experiments with it will, therefore, be carried out by the Admiralty. The trials have been attended by officers acquainted with the Brennan torpedo, and its capabilities, in comparison with that weapon, will doubtless be reported on and considered." —U. S. Army and Navy Journal.

La Presse, of Paris, May 18 announced that a contract was signed early during the present month between the Russian government and the Chatelleraut arms factory by which the plant of the factory and its employees are at the absolute disposal of Russia, who has given an order for three million new rifles.

A gentleman who is unusually well informed on the subject of small arms, and who spends much of his time abroad, says in a private letter: "The French Lebel rifle is pretty generally conceded by military men as being the poorest of the adopted magazine rifles. The French are by no means satisfied with it, nor do I believe the Government is. If the Government had more strength and support I think that they would, notwithstanding their inclination to economize, immediately take up for trial other magazine arms. As it is, they will be subjected to severe criticism whether they retain the Lebel or adopt another gun."—Ex.

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