

## DENISON ON MODERN CAVALRY.

Lieut.-Col. George T. Denison, Jr., the commanding officer of the Governor-General's Body Guard, has written a book on Modern Cavalry, which displays an intimate acquaintance with the details of the subject on which he writes. The work deals with all that relates to the efficiency of a horse soldier; his physical stature, training, armament, equipment, and varied duties; and it may be mentioned as some proof of the value of the treatise, that it has already been translated into German by a Prussian cavalry officer, for circulation amongst military men in Prussia. Col. Denison divides his subject under several heads, and states his opinion about each in a thoroughly lucid manner, giving the opinions of experienced cavalry officers in support of those theories which he himself supports. He is candid enough, moreover, to mention the opinions of some others who in some matters disagree with himself. It has long been held that the cavalry arm of the service has fallen much behind in the general advance that has been made in the improvement of military science, and that some change is absolutely necessary to render the English cavalry as efficient as they might be in time of war. The principal difficulty has been that, weighty authorities have differed in their opinions concerning the changes that should be made. Col. Denison states what he conceives to be the necessary alterations, and in many points he is supported by excellent authorities. To deal with his ideas seriatim, he says of the organization of cavalry, that, to be effective, it should be divided into two branches; cavalry of the line and dragoons or mounted riflemen. The first he would reserve for the special object of charging, and the latter for the more varied duties that are usually supposed to be performed by light cavalry. As this distinction is created principally by a difference of armament, we may consider what he says on this point. The cavalry of the line being intended for charging, either squares of infantry or opposing bodies of horse, should be armed for this special purpose. That is they should carry a lance, sabre and revolvers. The lance he thinks a most effective weapon for this purpose, and quotes several instances where its power has been demonstrated, and though he admits the necessity of these soldiers being provided with sabres he thinks the efficacy of that weapon far surpassed by that of the revolver. He mentions numerous instances—to which we could add others—where the superiority of the revolver has been fully established, and this we think is a matter so clear as to render dissenting opinions very difficult to support. The old superiority of the sword, as Col. Denison points out, vanishes in the face of the improvements which have been made in modern firearms, and were there no comparative testimony, a little reflection would show that a body of men armed merely with sabres would have but a poor chance against others carrying revolvers.

Speaking of his second division of cavalry, which he deems to be the more useful of the two, Colonel Denison says that, they should be armed and trained to fight as well on foot as on horseback. The opportunities for charging, and the problematical success which in modern warfare must attend that operation makes it important that light cavalry should be better prepared for the discharge of such duties as reconnoitering, covering bodies of

men whether in advance or retreat, harassing the enemy and generally performing duties other than charging. For this purpose he would arm them with a short repeating rifle and revolvers, but no sabre; or, if with a sabre, he would have that weapon attached to the saddle and not to the trooper, because, as it would seldom if ever be used, it should not hamper his movements on foot. He would have his light cavalry in fact mere mounted riflemen.

On one point, Colonel Denison differs with Captain Nolan, one of the best authorities on cavalry matters, as with other old and experienced officers. This is on the question of men's size. It has been said of the men to whom we refer, that for light cavalry they should be as small and light as possible: but Colonel Denison seems to think that length of limb is a more desirable quality than diminutive size. He says that "low stature does not necessarily carry with it light weight, nor tall stature heavy weight." It is unnecessary to dwell on such a point, for it cannot be denied that small men are, as a rule, lighter than large ones.

Colonel Denison comments on the dress which is worn by European cavalry, and points out very truly that the equipment of a cavalry soldier both in England and the Continent is better adapted for parade-grounds and ball-rooms than for actual service. He suggests a cavalry dress, and those who have had any experience of actual campaigning will heartily endorse his remarks.

It is impossible in our present limits to follow Colonel Denison in detail through the many branches into which he has divided his subject. We would, however, point out one opinion of his which we think of the greatest importance. It is that which relates to the selection of men for the cavalry. Colonel Denison thinks that men should be trained together and then apportioned to that branch of the service for which they are most fitted, instead of as is at present the method, of allowing every man to select his own arm and regiment. By this change the utility of any given number of men would be greatly increased.

Much of the remainder of the book is devoted to subjects more particularly interesting to cavalry men, and though there are matters—such as the size and shape of the saddle—in which Colonel Denison will find plenty of contrary opinion from experienced authorities, the work is throughout an able treatise on the cavalry arm of the service. It cannot fail to be interesting to all, even to those who differ with it on some points, and as a guide to those organizing cavalry corps it will be particularly valuable. The reasons for the various opinions are clearly set forth, the remarks of well-known men who support these opinions are given, and there are hints and instructions to men and officers which will add much to the efficiency of those who study them.—*Globe*.

## ZADKIEL'S PROPHECIES FOR 1870.

"Zadkiel"—Lieutenant Morrison—has issued in London his almanac predictions for 1870 of which the *London Daily News* says:

"The work is indeed a *multum in parvo*. It is suited to the wants and requirements of all ages and stations. Those who have neglected the warnings of the last number had better examine the list of fulfilled predictions at the end of the Almanac, and noted how foolish crowned heads have been in not seeing to their nativities in time. The Queen of Spain was warned that Mars was inimical to her, and so it turned out. The Conservatives of our country received due notice that

the Sun was in Aries, and not having made preparations for the event, they were overthrown. If people defy Sagittarius or Virgo, and even turn their backs upon Taurus or Leo, what are they to expect?"

"Zadkiel particularises in the most courageous manner. For example, on the 1st, 6th, 11th, 16th, 20th, 25th, of January, deal with merchants, bankers or clergymen, begin new undertakings. On the 5th, 24th, 29th, woo, marry, engage female servants, visit or invite friends, and so on. On the 4th, 9th, 14th, 23rd, deal with farmers, and old folk. Farmers and old folk; this is a strange conjunction, and seems somehow disrespectful to the agricultural interest. In March, Victor Emmanuel (*if alive*) is likely to be in a bad way. Jupiter, by moving in Uranus, seems well disposed to Ireland; but Uranus by retrograding in Cancer, brings straggle and sudden mischief on Holland, Scotland and Manchester. Those born on the 15th February will prosper in all Venus matters about the 15th of this month, which gives them exactly a month and a day to improve the privileges granted by a fading custom to the votaries of St. Valentine. April promises to be lowering and dark. Mars squares Uranus, and there is turbulence on that account in England. During May Ireland is disposed to be troublesome.

"Both the Prince Imperial and the Prince of Wales are exposed to perils in November. In December, what with Virgo squaring at Jupiter, Uranus retrograding in Cancer, and Saturn entering Capricorn from an unexpected quarter, a complete Irish shindy will take place in the skies, and we shall all be in danger from ill health, grief, losses, crosses, &c.

At last an end has been put to the Byron Stowe controversy by the *London Quarterly*, which publishes, in its current number, several letters addressed to Mrs. Leigh by Lady Byron at the time of the separation of the latter from her husband. These letters make it clear beyond a doubt that at that time Lady Byron was on the most affectionate terms with the poet's half-sister, that Mrs. Leigh acted towards her as well as Byron, the part of a devoted and attached sister, and that, of course, the separation could not have been owing, as Mrs. Stowe alleges, to the discovery by Lady Byron of a dreadful intrigue between Mrs. Leigh and her brother. It now rests with Mrs. Stowe to make the best answer she can to the reproaches which must follow her for her disgraceful attack upon the memory of the dead. It is altogether improbable that she can offer anything further to justify the shameless statements made in her "True Story."

Some people have a funny way of doing things. Not long ago a court martial was held upon an officer in the United States navy, named Frank Munroe. He was a captain in rank and had been guilty of some serious act of insubordination, so serious that the court decided unanimously that he be dismissed from the service. The sentence was forwarded to the Secretary of the Navy for endorsement, but that gentleman, probably thinking that it was too lenient for the magnitude of the offence, required it to be changed. He sentenced Capt. Munroe to be suspended from active duty for three years, on full pay. So the poor fellow is to receive all his salary and to do nothing for it! What could be more horrible to an active, intelligent mind than such a punishment? And yet the people of the United States talk about the a roudies perpetrated by Valmaseda in Cuba.